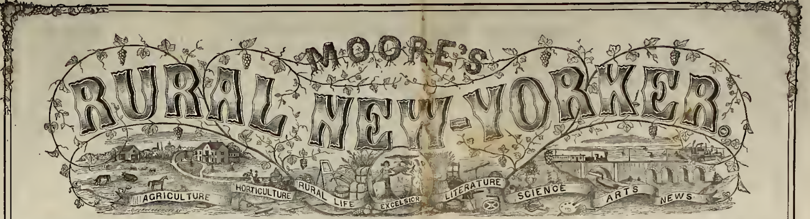

TWO DOLLARS A YEAR.] "PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT." [SINGLE NO. FOUR CENTS.

VOL. XII. NO. 51.} ROCHESTER, N. Y.,—FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1861. {WHOLE NO. 623.

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER,
AN ORIGINAL WEEKLY
AGRICULTURAL, LITERARY AND FAMILY JOURNAL.

CONDUCTED BY D. D. T. MOORE,
With an Able Corps of Assistants and Contributors.

CHAS. D. BRAGDON, Western Corresponding Editor.

The RURAL NEW-YORKER is designed to be unsurpassed in Value, Purity, Usefulness and Variety of Contents, and unique and beautiful in Appearance. Its Conductor devotes his personal attention to the supervision of its various departments, and earnestly labors to render the RURAL an eminently Reliable Guide on all the important Practical, Scientific and other Subjects intimately connected with the business of those whose interests it zealously advocates. As a FAMILY JOURNAL it is eminently Instructive and Entertaining—being so conducted that it can be safely taken to the Hearts and Homes of people of intelligence, taste and discrimination. It embraces more Agricultural, Horticultural, Scientific, Educational, Literary and News Matter, interspersed with appropriate and beautiful Engravings, than any other journal,—rendering it the most complete AGRICULTURAL, LITERARY AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER in America.

☞ For Terms and other particulars, see last page.

AGRICULTURAL.

FARMERS' WINTER LEISURE.

FARMERS and their sons and daughters have more leisure time during the winter than any class in the country. This time they can spend both pleasantly and profitably. If the mechanic has leisure in consequence of lack of business, from derangement of trade, or from any other cause, his resources are cut off, causing anxiety and fear, and the time thus afforded is a source of pain instead of pleasure. Not so with the farmer; his season of leisure comes as certainly and as regularly as seed-time and harvest, and if well improved will produce a harvest of good fruits. The winter is the time for reading, for thought, for the promotion of future plans that will make successful the next year's business. It is the time, too, for relief from corroding cares, that cause unseemly wrinkles in the face and make the young old long before their time; for indulgence in the pleasures of social life that warm the heart, cause the blood to course with new vigor, and make the old feel young again. A well spent winter will, under ordinary circumstances, stay the hand of time at least a year. It is true we must all grow old and pass away, but with the ordinary blessings of Providence we may enjoy a green and pleasant manhood and old age, and at last depart like "a shock of corn fully ripe," instead of being withered and blasted by our cares and follies.

We know of some whose only pleasure seems to consist in work and accumulation. Unless they can spend every moment in profitable labor they are unhappy. Miserable themselves, they manage to make all miserable with whom they come in contact. Others seem to go into a torpid or hybernating state during the winter, and care only to eat and sleep. Both of these courses are wrong, resulting in evil and only evil. The winter is the season for mental, moral, and social improvement, and he only is a wise man who thus employs it in adding to his knowledge and his graces. Farmers spend a good many dollars every year in the education of their children, and this is right; for who would not rather have a son intelligent and with right principles, though destitute of wealth, than one ignorant and mean, though possessed of the best farm in the State. We have not yet become so debased as to honor a man for what he has rather than for what he is. But in many things the father must be the teacher,—he is the natural protector, guide, and model, and it becomes him to set a pattern which the child may follow with safety and honor. The refined home circle is the best school in the world for both mind and heart-culture. Every man of ordinary capacity, who has lived in the world thirty or forty years with his eyes and ears open, no matter what may have been his early education, is prepared to become an instructor at the family fireside. This is a school in which all may teach a little, all learn much. We pity the man who can pass an evening with children without both imparting and receiving good.

Home duties and pleasures we consider most important; yet there are others not much less so to man as a social being and a member of society; and it is a fact too often forgotten, that the faithful performance of duty brings a certain reward of both pleasure and profit. What is more pleasurable and profitable than the social gathering of a few friends of a winter evening, to talk of absent friends, the successes and failures of the past season, and the hopes and plans for the future. This constitutes a kind of social farmers' club in its simplest form; but something more than this should be established in every neighborhood where a dozen or more can congregate,—a regular club with stated meetings,—to which the young may meet and learn from those of age and experience. The organization may be quite informal, and the expense little or nothing. Practical questions should be proposed by any of the members, and from these one selected for discussion at the next meeting. It may be well during the season to obtain a lecture from some person of distinction, but what is most needed is, that the farmers should learn to think, talk, and write for themselves. If this course is pursued generally all over the country for ten years, we will not be much longer annoyed at our State Agricultural Fairs by Addresses from politicians and lawyers, who endeavor to teach farmers upon questions in regard to which they are profoundly ignorant themselves. This, to us, is a humiliating spectacle; and we know of no better way to effect its cure than by urging farmers to form a habit of expressing their opinions publicly. This can be learned most effectually in the farmers' clubs we have recommended, where among friends and neighbors the speaker could feel but little embarrassment. Members of such clubs, when attending State Fairs, could at least take honorable part in the evening discussions, and would not have to ask others to give their views, as some did at the last Fair in this State, nor feel compelled to sit still and hear heresy advanced and not contradicted.

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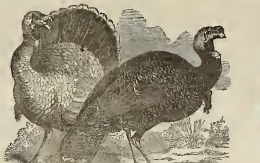
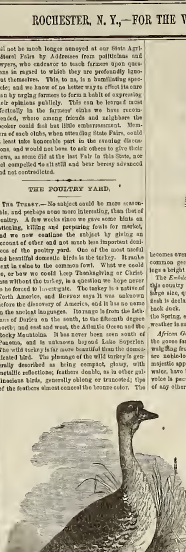
THE POULTRY YARD.

THE TURKEY.—No subject could be more seasonable, and perhaps none more interesting, than that of Poultry. A few weeks since we gave some hints on fattening, killing and preparing fowls for market, and we now continue the subject by giving an account of other and not much less important denizens of the poultry yard. One of the most useful and beautiful domestic birds is the turkey. It ranks next in value to the common fowl. What we could do, or how we could keep Thanksgiving or Christmas without the turkey, is a question we hope never to be forced to investigate. The turkey is a native of North America, and BUFFON says it was unknown before the discovery of America, and it has no name in the ancient languages. Its range is from the Isthmus of Darien on the south, to the fifteenth degree north; and east and west, the Atlantic Ocean and the Rocky Mountains. It has never been seen south of Panama, and is unknown beyond Lake Superior. The wild turkey is far more beautiful than the domesticated bird. The plumage of the wild turkey is generally described as being compact, glossy, with metallic reflections; feathers double, as in other gallinaceous birds, generally oblong or truncated; tips of the feathers almost conceal the bronze color. The plumage of the male is very brilliant; that of the female is not so beautiful. When strutting about, with tail spread, displaying himself, this bird has a very handsome and stately appearance, and seems sensible of the admiration he excites. The domestic turkey, as before observed, is less beautiful than the wild, but yet is a very proud and handsome bird. The prevailing colors are black, copper-colored and white. They require a little care while young, being rather delicate, but when they get a fair hold of the world, nothing in the poultry yard is more interesting than a flock of young turkeys; and the pleasure of beholding them is not lessened by the fact that when six or seven months old, each one will give ten or twelve pounds of as delicious and delicate flesh as ever graced the board of a prince.



TURKEYS — COCK AND HEN.



AFRICAN GOOSE.

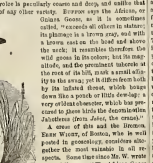
GEESE.—Of all our domestic birds, none are so profitable as geese where there are facilities for keeping them, such as ponds of running water. They are hardy even when young, and with a proper range can provide their own support, and will be in good condition in the fall, when a few weeks upon grain will put them in prime order. Every part of the goose is valuable, the feathers furnishing us our beds of down, and even the wing feathers will bring a good price in the market. Of late, several varieties of geese, superior to our common varieties, have been introduced into the country. These are remarkable principally for their great size, though we believe our common geese, if bred with care and supplied with abundance of food when young, would be found to improve so much in size as to rival any of the new breeds.

The *Toulouse Goose* originated, it is said, in France, where it attains an enormous size, and yet never becomes over-fat, as is apt to be the case with our common geese. It is dark gray, and the tail and legs a bright orange.

The *Embden or Bremen Geese* were first brought to this country in 1820. They are pure white, of very large size, quiet in their habits, lay early, and their flesh is declared to be equal to that of the canvass-back duck. They are apt to lay rather too early in the Spring, so that their broods come out before the weather is sufficiently warm.

African Goose.—The African is the largest of all the goose family, a gander in good condition often weighing from twenty to twenty-two pounds. They are noble-looking birds, and on account of their majestic appearance and dignified movements on the water, have been called by some Swan geese. Their voice is peculiarly coarse and deep, and unlike that of any other variety. BUFFON says the African, or Guinea Goose, as it is sometimes called, "exceeds all others in stature; its plumage is a brown gray, and with a brown cast on the head and above the neck; it resembles therefore the wild goose in its colors; but its magnitude, and the prominent tubercle at the root of its bill, mark a small affinity to the swan; yet it differs from both by its inflated throat, which hangs down like a pouch or little dew-lap; a very evident character, which has procured to these birds the denomination Jabotieres (from *Jabot*, the crane)."

A cross of this and the Bremen, EBEN WIGHT, of Boston, who is well posted in gooseology, considers altogether the most valuable in all respects. Some time since Mr. W. wrote us as follows:—"The African Goose is of the largest varieties recently introduced, and proves much more prolific than the Bremen, or any common geese seen about the country; it is a stately-looking goose, of gray upper plumage, with white under the body, and any one not having a large dew-lap, or pouch, should be rejected, as less likely of attaining to the largest size. A few years since a person had a gander of this breed weighing twenty-six pounds. Having lost his mate, the owner coupled him with a Bremen goose. Of this progeny, or cross, he saved two of the geese, and bred these two back to the same gander. These two geese laid more than one hundred and fifty eggs the first year of laying. In 1856 they came into my possession. One of the two geese I disposed of to a friend, which has proved exceeding prolific; while that retained by me has laid equally well, and in 1856 gave me sixty-seven eggs; in 1857, sixty-five eggs; in 1858, between sixty and seventy eggs. So fast as she gave me five eggs, they were placed under a hen, and each hen was allowed to bring them up.



AYLESBURY DUCK.

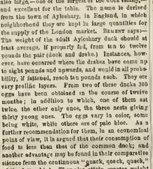
"I have now on hand of the second growth a large flock of the young—all the progeny of this one goose for this year. If well cared for, they will dress to weigh from fifteen to twenty pounds each. The Bremen geese which I formerly bred would give me about nine eggs each. I would advise all who wish to breed for profit to obtain one of each breed—none are better for the table than the cross."

DUCKS.—This class of birds are very much neglected, and yet we know of none that could be grown with less trouble and greater profit, if properly managed. Invariably make use of a hen to hatch the brood, and allow them only sufficient water to drink until feathered. When young give them cooked food, and you will have no difficulty in raising large broods.

Aylesbury.—Of white ducks, the Aylesbury *is* the best, and is very pretty, with its snowy-white plumage, yellowish legs and feet, and flesh-colored bill. It is also large,—one of the largest of the duck family,—and excellent for the table. The name is derived from the town of Aylesbury, in England, in which neighborhood they are kept in large quantities for the supply of the London market. BEMENT says:—The weight of the adult Aylesbury duck should at least average, if properly fed, from ten to twelve pounds the pair (duck and drake.) Instances, however, have occurred where the drakes have come up to eight pounds and upwards, and would in all probability, if fattened, reach ten pounds each. They are very prolific layers. From two of these ducks 300 eggs have been obtained in the course of twelve months; in addition to which, one of them sat twice, the other only once, the three nests giving thirty young ones. The eggs vary in color, some being white, while others are of pale blue. As a further recommendation for them, in an economical point of view, it is argued that their consumption of food is less than that of the common duck; and another advantage may be found in their comparative silence from the continuous "quack, quack, quack," of the latter bird. They also attain greater weight in less time; and, from their superior appearance when plucked, are a far more marketable article.

Black Cayuga.—The Black Cayuga is the best of the dark ducks; very little, if any, inferior in size and value to the Aylesbury. Its history we have never learned fully, but it originated on Cayuga Lake, and is in all respects a noble bird, while the flesh is, we think, superior to all others, having the juiciness and richness, and game flavor of the best of the wild ducks. J. R. PAGE, Esq., of Sennett, is the most extensive breeder of these ducks in the country, and to him we have been indebted for magnificent specimens,—such as were duly honored at our Christmas dinner.

Our common ducks, though small, are not to be despised, and where pains have been taken to breed only from the largest and best, we have seen very fine flocks. The White Top-Knots are quite interesting, and where water is abundant, very pretty. Those who are favorably situated respecting water, will find the rearing of aquatic fowls quite profitable, and to persons of taste there are few sights more interesting than a sheet of water covered with water fowls engaged in their curious sports.



BLACK CAYUGA DUCK.

The *Muscovy* or *Brazilian Duck*, although a water fowl, is far less partial to this element than other varieties, and may be kept very well where there is only a sunken barrel or trough in which they can indulge occasionally, but we have never thought them remarkable for beauty.

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WESTERN EDITORIAL NOTES.

REFINING SORGHUM SIRUP—IMPORTANT.

AT the recent meeting of the Illinois State Horticultural Society, in this city, (of which more in due time,) a Mr. SNOW, of Ogle Co., Ill., exhibited two samples of Sorghum sirup, which created quite a sensation among the members. The samples exhibited were the crude sirup, as it is now used throughout the country, as it comes from the evaporators with only the simple agents of heat or lime, used as refiners, and the same kind of sirup used at BELCHER's Sugar Refinery, in this city (Chicago). The sample of crude sirup is an inferior one,—not an average sample of the quality made throughout the country this year, [I herewith send you a sample of each,] which is much better.

So profound was the sensation made upon members by this exhibition, that a committee was appointed to visit the refinery and obtain such facts as could be secured, and lay them before the people. The writer accompanied the committee, and what follows is the result of the visit. And by him the items herewith given are deemed of the greatest importance, as foreshadowing an entire revolution in the product and manufacture of Sorghum in the West.

We were politely received by W. H. BELCHER, Esq., the proprietor of the refinery,—a gentleman who twenty years ago labored on a New England farm, and who built the St. Louis refinery; the same person who early in the history of Chinese Sugar Cane in this country, asserted that it was not and could not be made a profitable *sugar* producing plant, possessing as it does so much grape and so little cane sugar. He still adheres to this opinion, conceding that crystals will be precipitated by draining; but insisting that sugar cannot be profitably *made* on a large scale from the plant. He has much more faith that our sugar will be realized from the sugar beet than from Sorghum. And from a few moments' conversation with him, I judge that he is convinced that the experiment of making beet sugar here might be made a profitable one, if the material were produced in sufficient quantity.

But to the sirup. A lot of about 21 barrels was purchased, with which to experiment. This is the first effort to refine pure Sorghum sirup made here. The result is a quality of sirup much better than the amber and golden sugar house sirups, which sell at from 65 cents to $1 per gallon in this market. There are plenty of men foolish enough, in their own enthusiasm, to call this refined Sorghum sirup equal to any maple molasses ever eaten, and the writer is one of the foolish tribe.

Now about the figures. This sample of refined sirup is heavier in volume than the sample from which it was made. It is about the color and volume of BELCHER's best amber sirup, but much better in quality. Compared with STEWART's New York sirups, its value and good quality is enhanced about 200 per cent! There is no *smoky* taste about it. The process of refining and the boiling down to secure the proper volume, enabled the refiner to get about 80 gallons of refined sirup from 100 gallons of the crude. But this loss in volume would not obtain with the average samples of Western sirups.

What will you charge the producer to receive his sirup at the depots in this city, refine it, re-cooper, paint, and brand the casks, and deliver at the same depot ready for shipment?"

"We will return seventy-five gallons of refined sirup for every one hundred gallons of the crude received."

"What will you charge per gallon in cash for doing the same thing?"

"We should charge ten cents per gallon; however, if we could get it by thousands of gallons, we could do it for much less, say six cents per gallon; for, without additional cost, except for fuel, we can as well refine two hundred barrels per day as fifty; and we can do that amount of business and not interfere with our regular sugar refining business."

Here it is, therefore, in understandable form. Sirup may be *doubled* in value at least, by the payment of six to ten cents per gallon—or twenty five per cent. of the product of the local mills. To this must be added freight to and from this city.

The object of this experiment on the part of Mr. BELCHER, was to find what quality of sirup could be obtained after refining, the cost of refining it, and whether a market can be created for it. No fixed value can be given it until the people have rendered a verdict in the case. And they will not be long in doing it if they get a taste. It is proposed, as soon as possible, to find what can be paid the producer for his sirup as it comes from the mill, and make it a regular business to buy and refine. Let this product become marketable once, in this manner, and let the grinding season be lengthened indefinitely, (as suggested a week or two since, in relating the experience of Mr. BRAINARD, of Iowa,) and Sorghum culture will soon give employment to more men and acres. It is *now* more profitable than corn or wheat growing.

Of the process of refining pursued here, we could learn little, inasmuch as none was being refined at the time of our visit. Another lot will soon be refined, and Mr. B. has promised to notify us, and permit us to watch and write of the entire process in detail.

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The machinery for the work of refining sugar is much more costly than that required for refining sirup alone. The cost of this refinery is little, if any, less than $125,000. Its capacity is enormous. Its boilers will hold 90,000 pounds of sugar at once. But with a little modification it can be used for both purposes—for the refining of both sugar and sirup. We look to see refinerys built up in the different sections of the sorghum-producing States, whereat the crude material may be put in marketable, useable, and eatable shape, on a large scale, and refined sirup or cash returned to the producer for the same. This is the purpose of the proprietors of this establishment, and they have made a good introduction of the Sorghum product, refined, to the notice of the public.

After having *seen* the process, we shall write more of it.

TO DRIVE RATS.

The great gray rats that infest the grain stacks and granaries of the West, cost nearly as much to keep as the same number of sheep. A farmer told me the other day he would give twenty-five dollars for something that would drive them from his premises. I told him what I knew would do it, but could not say what the cost would be. And I am reminded of the conversation with him by seeing it asserted that gas tar, daubed in their holes and placed in corn cribs and granaries, will cause them to leave. I should think it would!—but I do not know that it will. But I *do* know that ferrets are "death on rats." How they scamper when the ferret is let loose! They are effectually driven off. They do not soon come back. My friend Geo. B. Davis, of this city, said to me one day, as he pulled one of his pets from his great coat pocket, "This here his the feller what gives hemployment to ha dozen Patricks with their shilalehs where the rats bare plenty. Be golly, hif 'e don't make 'em jump!"—and from the other pocket he pulled a large slice of fresh beef, in which the ferret fastened his teeth, and George held him out at arm's length to show his "way of 'olding hon!"

George has a way of his own in managing these pretty and useful creatures. They cost little to keep. "Twenty hon 'hem don't cost as much as one rat," said George—must be kept clean, and require a warm—not hot place—in winter. There are doubtless many Rural readers who know all about them; but there are others who do not. Such should have George's mode of management. But get ferrets (if you can) if your stacks or premises are infested by the rats, and they will leave your place quickly, and your neighbor, who has no ferrets, will soon inform you that he is "overrun with rats—never saw them so thick."

One of the *essentials*, in keeping ferrets, is cleanliness. Their cages must be so arranged and furnished as to avoid filth; for, like all sensible animals, the ferret soon dies if it is not kept clean. The cage should have two or three compartments, which should be well furnished with clean, sweet, soft hay. The lawn cuttings are best. The cage should be cleaned twice a week, and washed thoroughly occasionally.

In summer they may be kept in a barrel—an apple barrel, with holes bored in the bottom, and three inches of straw laid in. Over the top nail laths to keep the dogs out. They must have air. A barrel thus prepared and frequently cleaned, is an excellent place for them in summer.

In winter make a snug box with three compartments—two partitions. Fill one of these *full* of hay. Feed in another apartment, and allow them to have free access to the third for their own private purposes. In this way they will be careful to keep themselves clean. Let the front of the cage be made of laths, to admit light and air. Keep them in a warm barn where there is other stock—with horses or cattle, where the air is kept warm. Do not admit a strong draught of air to them. When the weather is very cold, protect them by throwing a forkful of hay over the cage.

A little milk, and some kind of *fresh* meat—beef, or a piece of fowl or bird—are all that they desire as food. *They must not have salt food, it will kill them.* If the ferret has young, shoot a bird, pull off a few feathers, and throw it into the cage. It will be quickly and eagerly devoured. A piece of fresh beef will be acceptable. Do not cut it too fine. The day before the ferret is to hunt, he should have no food!—give him a little water, and he will be in condition to hunt. If rats are to be hunted, do not muzzle the ferret; but if rabbits are the game, put on a muzzle.

If rats are plenty, it is a good practice to rear a young Scotch terrier with the ferrets, and let them learn to co-operate in the work of extermination. Mr. Ferret will explore the subterranean passages and ferret out Mr. Rat, while the Scotchman scotches and destroys the victim the moment he makes [illegible] appearance above ground or out of doors. But [illegible] terrier is not essential; for where ferrets are kept, rats and rabbits will not remain; and the cost of keeping one rat is greater than that involved by the care and support of a half dozen ferrets.

I asked George about their breeding, and the care required, and give his answer in his own words: "They will breed twice per year, but I do not let them breed but once. One female will bear from five to nine per litter, and that is enough for her to bring up in a year. After the female has had the buck three weeks, isolate her and put her where she won't hear the old fellow (the buck) scratch. Feed her well with birds, milk, &c. When you see that she is scratching up a handful of hay, give her plenty of it. She must be left to her own quiet. The cage should be covered so that she can see no one; especially the first three weeks after she has dropped her young, she must not be disturbed or allowed to see anybody. The door of the cage must not be opened to get her food to her; push it through the laths. Feed her bread soaked in milk, and let it be milk-warm. Arrangements should be made for feeding her quietly and without disturbing her, before she is confined. If disturbed, she will destroy her young.

Mr. D. has eight or ten ferrets, and they don't eat a half pint of milk per day. A small piece of meat suffices; and, although he is in the midst of a rat region, has not seen one on his premises for years. And rabbits never hack his trees or disturb his plants. With the foregoing precautions, he has no difficulty in keeping them in this climate and breeding them successfully.

CARE OF IMPLEMENTS.

Eds. Rural New-Yorker:—Seeing in your last Rural an article in relation to the care of farm implements, I wish, in answer to his recommendations, to state my experience. I had a sled made in the fall of 1834, at a cost of nineteen dollars. I have the same sled now, and I will warrant it to carry as large a load as when it came out of the shop. With the exception of the shoes, which are getting very thin, it seems as perfect as when new. I have not paid out fifty cents in repairs, except painting. It has been painted twice during the time, and has not staid out doors ten nights during the whole time. In the fall of 1858 I exhibited this sled, one double wagon that had been used eight years, one hoe that had been in use twenty-eight years without even a new handle, and one pitchfork that had been in use fifteen years without even a new stale, at the Adams Union Agricultural Fair, held in that town. I did not expect a premium, from the fact of their not being made the last year, but was awarded a discretionary premium. They were pronounced by the committee on tools as good as new, with the exception of the natural wear. And now, Messrs. Editors, should you think the above worthy a place in your columns, for the benefit of farmers, you can use it in this way. LORENZO COOLEY.

Rodman, N. Y., 1861.

The Bee-Keeper.

Finding and Hiving Wild Bees.

Eds. Rural New-Yorker:—In answer to certain correspondents who are desirous of learning the *modus operandi* of bee-hunting, I will now proceed to give, as well as I may be able, the method practiced by myself, whereby I have no difficulty in very soon determining the *exact* locality of the swarm. As something depends upon the *season of the year* in which it is proposed to hunt them, I will give the different methods suitable for each, beginning with early spring. Take the middle of a warm sunny day, the thermometer above 48° in the shade, go to the woods near the supposed locality of the wild swarm, and with a lighted match or candle, burn a little dry honey-comb, bees-wax or piece of wood, on which a few drops of oil of anise has been poured. Keep a gentle "smudge" (to use the bee-hunter's phrase) going for 15 to 30 minutes, or until the bees come searching along close to the ground, following the line of the smoke. A foot or two from the "smudge," in the direction in which the wind is blowing, elevated a foot or two from the ground, if the surface be smooth,—if bushy, higher, so as to have it the highest object near the smoke,—place a piece of honey-comb, partially filled with sweet freshly diluted honey; or sweetened water will do if the swarm is close by, otherwise they are not so sure to readily accept it. If a drop or two of the oil of anise be added to it, or sprinkled on the comb, the bees will be attracted by its strong scent, and work all the more rapidly. The bees will soon begin to collect upon the comb, and if the weather continues favorable, with but little wind, and the swarm near by, (by which I mean within, say, half a mile,) a steady line of bees will be seen going from the combs, laden with the sweets, to their home, wherever that may be.

The first time a bee starts for home, and sometimes for several of the first trips, it will be seen to describe a circle immediately around the comb, the circles gradually becoming larger and larger, till apparently the tree bearing is found, when a "bee line" is struck for home. In order to see them plainly, and watch their course as far as possible, an open space must be chosen, or what is better, an open field, even if it be somewhat farther off, when we shall be able, by keeping the eye as close to the ground as possible, while the bee flies against the sky, for a back-ground, unobstructed by trees or other objects, to more perfectly line them. Of course new comers are constantly arriving, and these latter will fill the air with their spiral curvings; but a little practice will enable the hunter's eye to catch those whose flight will now be straight for home, without more than a part of a single circle, while even those striking spirals, (if it be not windy,) will evidently lean towards home, or circle from the combs in that direction.

Many different swarms are often thus set at work from the same spot at once, sometimes causing much vexation. This will at once be known by *constant quarreling*. If, now, we desire to divide them, getting rid of all but those which go in a direction indicating that they are probably wild ones, we have only to place a box supplied with a clean honey-comb, with a little honey in the cells, in the spot from which the bees have been working, removing all other comb, and after the bees have collected therein, close them in with a cover, and carry them in the direction nearly where we suppose the swarm to be, and as nearly to the spot as we can guess. I say *nearly*, because if we diverge a little out of the line, and yet, when we set them again at work be considerable *nearer* the swarm in quest of, while we are *further off* from the others, we shall pretty effectually divide them. Besides this, if we have chosen the right spot we shall now probably get a "cross-line," and by following *both lines* accurately, to *the point where the one crosses the other*, we shall be in their immediate neighborhood. If left to themselves, one swarm only will be at work after two or three hours, usually, the *nearest* and *hungriest* swarm generally driving the others off. Hence it is that not the best, but the poorest and least valuable, is often found if we do not divide them.

When the spot is found nearly where they must be, as indicated by the point where the lines cross each other, we must carefully mark the place and commence the search of the trees. This is the most tedious of the whole process, and often requiring the nicest skill *in getting into the right position* to discover bees at altitudes in which they are often found. When the trees are but short and small, it is not a difficult matter to see them; but when they are up from 40 to 60 feet from the ground, it is another thing altogether. In any case, the way to find them is, when you have nothing but the naked eye to aid you, to get in the shadow of the tree, and walk slowly backwards and forwards, so as to bring every point of its body and larger branches in range between the eye and the sun, looking at the sides of the tree just below the sun and outwardly, carefully and slowly. They will be seen very easily while in this position, and appear quite large from the reflection of the sun's rays striking upon their wings. A good spy-glass is a great help, however, and by its aid one can readily determine whether bees are at work in and out of a tree or not, even by looking over the top and sides of the branches, or through openings almost anywhere about the tree.

Bees will work honey at any time, even in midsummer, if it be fresh out of the hive. The way to set them at work at this season, is with a cup or box, with a cover, catching one at a time from the blossoms, setting the cup on a stump of a tree, or other convenient point, till no humming is heard in the cup, when the cover is very carefully removed, and the bee allowed to get its fill of honey undisturbed. It is usual with bee-hunters to make a bee-box for hunting purposes, with a slide two inches from its bottom, so that the comb and honey may be shut out from the bees while catching and carrying them, to prevent their becoming besmeared with honey; for when one bee does so, ever so little, there is no use trying to do anything with that bee, for she knows, as well you can tell her, that honey is of no consequence so long as she can't get home with it. A bee-tree should never be cut, except by a person of great experience, before the middle of May nor after the 1st of September, since it will be extremely difficult to save them at such times. During these months no trouble need be had by a person ever so green in the business. Simply remove the honey and comb, after subduing the bees a little with smoke of old rags or tobacco, and with a stick or nail fasten a small piece of the comb, containing eggs and brood only, in a box, for a temporary hive. Now hive them precisely as you would a young swarm in swarming time, removing them at night to your domicil, having previously placed the brood combs as evenly and carefully in a hive as it is possible for you to do, transferring thither the bees, giving them but little or no honey. If movable frame hives are at hand, this is easily done. Should the queen have been destroyed, they will soon rear another, and collect far more honey, and prove ten thousand times more satisfactory to you, than if you had waited till fall, and then cruelly destroyed them all, as is so often done for their stores alone. I have no patience with that class of bee-hunters who practice this latter, and have now only to say to them that their practice may be likened to that of the rude Indians of the forest, who annually slay whole herds of deer for their skins alone; but a more perfect parallel would be found in the farmer who should make yearly slaughter of his beeves and other stock for their hides and pelts, throwing their valueless (?) carcasses to the winds.

Grand Rapids, Mich., November, 1861. M. METCALF.

P. S.—P. T. Barnum, of New York, would be most happy, I have no doubt, if he could secure the services of your correspondent of Great Valley, N. Y., *and his tame minks!* Beyond question, there will be no trouble from the "moth miller" while the "*tame minks*" are about!—Equal to "*salt on the pigeon's tail*," of school-boy memory. M. M.

Wintering Bees.

Eds. Rural New-Yorker:—Being a reader of your widely extended paper, and knowing it to be open for inquiries, I will take the privilege of asking a few questions. What I wish to know is, how I can winter twenty five swarms of bees to the most proper manner? Last year I wintered my bees in a log house. During the coldest weather the inside of the hives would become icy, and I thought it injured the bees. I have an out-cellar that freezes solid to about two weeks after the ground is frozen outside, and remains so two weeks after the frost is out in the spring. Now this being of an even temperature through the winter, is it advisable to put them in this cellar? It affords protection from the bleak winds and the smothering snow, and the latter often proves fatal.—H. C., *Middlesex, Yates Co., N. Y.*, 1861.

The cellar as suggested would be of some advantage in affording protection from the most severe storms and changes of temperature, and unless too damp would answer pretty well if proper ventilation was afforded from the top of the hive. Your cellar, however, we think, could be made frost-proof by a proper covering of earth, or straw and leaves, and then it would be much better for the bees, and no doubt valuable for many other purposes.

Rural Spirit of the Press.

How to Cure Side Pork.

A. Aylesworth, writing to the Ohio *Farmer*, says—"If any one wishes to have his side pork a little better, and keep better than any he has ever had, let him try my way, as follows:—Take out the bone and lean meat along the back, cut and pack the pieces snugly in the barrel, put more salt on the bottom and on each layer of meat than will probably penetrate the meat; then boil and skim the brine, (if it is sweet,) and add enough to it to cover your meat two or three inches over the top, made strong like the ham brine; and as soon as you pack your meat, pour the brine on boiling hot; it will penetrate the meat much quicker than cold brine, and give it an improved flavor.

A Hint to Wool Growers.

An Illinois exchange, urging farmers to grow more wool, says comparatively few realize the fact that the Northern States are now wholly deprived of their usual supplies of cotton, and so make calculations accordingly. A correspondent at Washington very properly remarks, that as the Congress of the "Confederate States" has formally recommended to the people of the South to devote less breadths of land to the culture of cotton than usual, and more to grains and grasses, so the necessities of the North, springing from the want of "cotton wool," suggest the pretermitting at this time of the usual slaughter of sheep and lambs, to the end that in future the wool crop may be made as large as possible.

Preparing Poultry for Market.

Solon Robinson, in the New York *Tribune*, repeats his last year's remarks upon this subject as follows:—"The best mode of killing, particularly turkeys and geese, is to hang the birds by the heels to a rope stretched across a yard, and then bleed them by the incision of a pen-knife blade in the neck. If heads are to be cut off of any birds, first draw the skin of the neck back tightly, and afterward bring it forward and tie it over the stump. Keep the skin whole and smooth as possible; the intestines must not be drawn. The water for scalding should be nearly boiling hot; dip the poultry in, and raise it out two or three times, so as to scald evenly, then pick off all the quills, feathers and pin-feathers as quick as possible without breaking the skin. Don't rub them off, as that rubs off the thin outside skin, which injures the sale. Next, immediately before it cools, dip it into clean, hot water; hold it in but a few seconds, then suddenly dip it into cold water for a few seconds more, then hang or lay it up to cool and dry. Be careful to arrange the legs and wings smoothly, and lay the birds straight and singly upon shelves in a dry room. Never pack until the birds are thoroughly cool—not frozen—that you may allow after they are packed. Boxes for packing should hold about three hundred pounds. Dry-goods boxes, next to the largest size, make good packages. See that your boxes are light, tight, clean, and packed entirely full. Small birds will do packed in good flour barrels. Straw for packing must be bright, clean, sweet and free from chaff and weeds. Rye straw is best of all. Shake it and sun it dry before you put it in the box. Then put a layer of straw in the bottom, and on it a course of birds, all as near of a size as possible, and another layer of straw. Put straw between the birds and the sides of the box. Some nice shippers wrap each bird in clean, soft paper. Lay them backs up and legs straight out behind, and stow snugly, so that there can be no movement to produce chafing. More straw is needed in warm weather than when it is cold, as it absorbs the moisture. Put straw on the top, and pack the birds so that the lid will have to be pressed down with considerable power."

Rural Notes and Items.

Our Next Volume—*Prospects, &c.*—As the close of this volume of the Rural is near, we would remind all who wish to secure its successor (which, we trust, includes every present subscriber, and thousands of regular or occasional borrowers and readers,) that *now is the time to subscribe*. Those who aim to commence with the year and volume, and secure all the numbers, will promote their own interest and favor us by renewing or subscribing at the earliest practicable moment, as we desire to get as many names as possible in type and ready for mailing by machinery in the regular packages, before issuing No. 1 of Vol. XIII. This will save labor and delay—for if we are obliged to mail several packages, instead of one, to hundreds of postoffices, the extra time and expense will be considerable, while many subscribers will receive their papers later than others in the same places. What we request is, therefore, for the mutual benefit of the parties interested—subscribers and publisher—and we trust all who propose to take the Rural for 1862 will give the matter early attention. This can be easily done—by remitting single subscriptions to us direct, or forming or joining a club. Those who are not regular agents can greatly aid the object in view, by handing their subscriptions to the nearest club agent, and inducing their friends and neighbors to do likewise. Don't be jealous of the agent, but join with him, or form a club yourself. We ask ALL its friends to aid the Rural, and give no one any special powers—as some seem to infer. Surely, in a good cause, the only strife or rivalry should be in endeavoring to see who can do most for its promotion.

—The Rural's prospects for 1862 are [illegible] very encouraging. Though its field will be less than last year, on account of the rebellious secession, we anticipate an increase of its aggregate circulation. We are already receiving handsome accessions, and if assurances from agents and friends are reliable, our list for 1862 will far exceed the present, *which is larger than ever before*. Several who neglected to subscribe for this volume, have recently ordered the next, expressing regret for the omission. One of these sends $5 for three years from January last, remarking that the Rural is an indispensable family institution.

* * *

The Rural's Position on the War.—From the day Fort Sumter was stormed by the rebels, our position relative to the War for the Union has been unequivocal. Unlike many Northern journals circulating at the South, the Rural, at the risk (indeed, with the certainty) of losing many subscribers, went heart and soul for preserving the American Union by upholding the Stars and Stripes, and advocating the maintenance of the Constitution and Laws at all hazards and at whatever sacrifices. This caused some rebellious spirits to *secede* from our list, but their places were long ago filled by true and loyal Unionists, and "still they come." We are daily receiving the best assurances that the Rural's position—viz: going unreservedly for the *War for the Union*, while standing aloof from all merely political or party organizations—is heartily endorsed by the People. As a sample, we quote the concluding sentences of a letter (requesting bills, specimens, etc.) just received from a subscriber in Oneida Co., N. Y., as follows:—"Mr. Moore, your paper is appreciated and has many ardent admirers here, as you will see when I send my club. I have assisted in obtaining subscribers for the last two years, but am taking more interest now than formerly, for the reason of the prompt and efficient stand you have taken for our *Glorious Union and Flag*. May God prosper and bless you, along with the thousands of loyal hearts that to-day are beating high for the perpetuation of the noble and elevated principles of a Free and Independent Government. Yours, for the Union, the whole Union, and our Glorious Flag, without a single star or stripe disfigured or dishonored."

* * *

The "Empire State" and the World's Fair.—A New York paper announces that the contributions of this State to the World's Fair are rapidly increasing. Mr. Joseph E. Holmes, of New York, the General Agent of the American Commissioners for this State, has already received applications for six thousand cubic feet of space, or more than one-third of the estimated stowing capacity of the vessel which will be chartered by the Government for carrying the articles. A large proportion of the contributions are labor saving machines, of novel and ingenious patterns, many of them exclusively adapted for steam power, which will be furnished free at the fair. It is now certain that the Yankee Nation will make no mean show in competition with the inventive talent of all Europe.

—Rochester, Buffalo, and Western New York generally, ought to be represented at the great Industrial Exhibition. Specimens of our Flour, Grain, Seeds, Implements, etc., would no doubt prove creditable, even at a *World's Fair*.

* * *

Another Rural Recruit for the War.—Mr. Garret Van Thorn, for several years employed in our mailing department, latterly as chief entry clerk, has accepted the appointment of Sergeant Major in the 89th Regiment N. Y. V., (known as the Dickinson Guard,) and gone to the war—whereby we lose, until rebeldom is conquered, a most faithful and efficient aid, and the Union gains a valiant and experienced soldier. Though we could just now better spare almost any other employe, we believe he will prove "the right man in the right place," and he has our best wishes (and those of all his office associates) for success and the promotion we are assured he will merit. Mr. V. T. has served a number of years in the army of his native country, Holland—during which he was in several engagements—understands the business in hand, and we are confident will acquit himself well in any position.

* * *

Rural Items.—*The horse "Silver Heels,"* renowned all over the Union for his beauty, died at Gen. Singleton's farm, in Adams Co., Ill., a few days ago. He was one of the finest animals in all the West, and his owner had several times refused $10,000 for him.——*The Exports of Wheat Flour* from New York to foreign ports, week before last, were 99,637 bbls. Only twice before in ten years have the clearances from that port reached this amount, and those instances were in Nov., 1853—over eight years ago.——*The new Governor of Vermont*, Hon. F. Holbrook, of Brattleboro', has long been one of the Corresponding Editors of the *N. E. Farmer*. He is a practical farmer, and has by his experiments, observation and study made many valuable improvements in plows and other agricultural implements.——*The Canal Tolls of New York*, from the opening of navigation to Dec. 1st, inst., were $3,902,701—about $900,000 more than for the same period in 1860.——*Good Barns and Sheds* are indispensable to the comfort of domestic animals, at this season, to protect them from rain, wind, snow and sleet during winter. Next to his own dwelling, every farmer should see that his barns, sheds, racks, etc., are in good order. "*What Glorious Weather!*" is a frequent greeting in the streets on this 17th of December, 1861—while the sun shines clearly, and the atmosphere is decidedly Septemberish. A good time to "fix" those barns, sheds, etc. (above mentioned), and make other preparations for the sure, though tardy, oncoming of winter.

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Traveling Swindlers.—It is no use talking: some "all-fired smart" people get outrageously swindled, and if they were alone concerned, we should say 'Serves them right!'—But other parties suffer: publishers feel this most severely. For instance, we have just seen a written receipt purporting to have been given to a lady of this county, by "William W. Wilson," "Agent for the Publishers," for $1.25 for the Rural New-Yorker one year, free of postage! But Bro. Moore does not do that sort of business; the bogus "agent" fobs $1.25, and the subscriber is fooled. We learn that this game has been played extensively in this region during the last month. If any reader of this notice is solicited to subscribe for *Field Notes*, at a less rate than our published club terms, just pull down the corner of your eye, and ask the "agent" if he sees anything green!

—So says Col. Harris, of the Ohio *Field Notes*, and he is right *every time*—especially in saying we don't do the sort of business named. We have published for years (see notice on last page) that no *traveling* agents are employed by the Rural, and that persons professing to hold certificates from us *are impostors*—yet it is very like the minister talking to his devout and attentive listeners concerning the wickedness of absentees, for the verdant people who are "sold" by the swindlers, do not listen to our "stated preaching."

* * *

Clark's School Visitor, advertised on our last page, is an excellent journal—admirably edited and elegantly printed. We can cordially commend it to teachers, parents and pupils as moral, instructive and entertaining. In its specialty—as "A Day-School Paper, for Teachers and School Children Everywhere"—the *Visitor* has no equal, to our knowledge, and is worthy the attention of all interested.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

To the Patrons of Ketchum's and Howard's Mower and Mower and Reaper—R. L. Howard
Agents Wanted—A. G. Ballou & Son.
Berkshires for Sale—Edward Wait.
Farm for Sale.
Short-Horns for Sale—James G. Sheldon.

The News Condenser.

—Queen Victoria now reigns over 170,000,000 people.

—It is thought the present session of Congress will last six months.

—December, the present year, will have two new moons and five Sundays.

—Gen. Buell, in Kentucky, refuses to let wives of officers accompany them.

—Lieut. Slemmer is lying dangerously ill at Fort Elkwater, Western Virginia.

—The Southern papers are advocating the abolition of the elective franchise.

—The reported removal of the Capital from Richmond to Nashville is incorrect.

—The New Orleans papers boast of the review of 1,400 negro troops in that city.

—Mrs. Lincoln is said to be a constant attendant at reviews, and often visits the camps.

—The New York City Council has voted half a million for the relief of soldiers' families.

—Every unmarried man but one in the village of Washington, Ind., has gone to the war.

—It is said that Gov. Blair will convene the Michigan Legislature on the 2d of January.

—On Monday, 25th ult., the first street passenger railway was opened for travel in Montreal.

—There are already 164 pieces of cannon at Cairo, none of which are less than 32-pounders.

—Blondin, the celebrated rope-walker, came near losing his life during a recent performance.

—The United States Sanitary Committee have expended $200,000, all voluntary contributions.

—There are 000 secession prisoners at Camp Chase, Ohio. Twelve were released on the 5th inst.

—Two hundred and forty barrels of eggs arrived at Boston in the steamer New Brunswick from St. Johns.

—The President's message, sent by telegraph to California, was published in San Francisco on Thursday week.

—The Belgian guns, large numbers of which have been sent out West, are reported to be nearly worthless.

—The Utah delegate took his seat in Congress Monday week. He and Brigham Young are strong Unionists.

—The N. Y. Tribune says Archbishop Hughes goes to Spain on a secret mission in the interest of our Government.

—Upward of 000 negro emigrants from Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Canada, sailed from New York last week for Hayti.

—Hon. Garrett Davis has been elected U. S. Senator from Kentucky to fill out the unexpired term of the traitor Breckinridge.

—The Leavenworth Conservative thinks there is little doubt that Topeka has now the State Capital location of Kansas.

—New South Wales has now a population of 350,550, against 251,834 for 1856, being an increase in five years of 298,721.

—The rebels estimate the property at the South, belonging to Union men, at $800,000,000, all of which is to be confiscated.

—The railway carriages in France are now warmed very comfortably by means of the exhausted steam from the engines.

—It is worthy of remark that the national flag floats over the soil of all the rebel States excepting two—Alabama and Arkansas.

—Ten thousand uniforms manufactured in France, and recently arrived in New York, are to be the price of discipline and valor.

—Potatoes are selling in New Orleans at a cent a piece, or $2.50 per bushel. Candles are being sold at from 16 to 20 cents each.

—The third "stone fleet" will sail in a few days for blocking up the water approaches to Charleston. It consists of 20 old vessels.

—During the season of lake navigation, the propeller Omar Pasha made forty-three round trips between Buffalo and Detroit.

—A colored man named Jack Herens recently died in Geneva, who, according to the reckoning of his family, was 114 years old.

—The list of disasters on the lakes and sea for November is much larger than for several months past, reaching seventy seven.

—Quite a large portion of the circulating medium in the vicinity of Cincinnati is made up of United States demand Treasury notes.

—The sleighing is said to be superb over nearly the whole of the States of Maine and Vermont, and a large portion of New Hampshire.

—A serious accident occurred recently in a mine near Pottsville, Pa., resulting in the death of two men, and severely injuring five others.

—The amount of silver now finding its way to San Francisco from Nevada is estimated, by well informed bankers, at six millions per annum.

—One of the finest pearls in the world has recently been found in the Bay of Panama. It is of a perfect pear shape, and of the finest water.

—For the year ending Sept. 30, 1861, over 14,000,000 letters were mailed at the New York Postoffice, a falling off of 1,000,000 from last year.

—There was the unusual phenomenon of a rainbow in the morning, against the western sky, seen at Newark, N. J., on the morning of the 11th.

—Of the potato crop in Canada, the Hamilton Spectator says: "We hear discouraging accounts of the potato crop from all western counties."

—Henry Graham, a farmer residing near Kingston, C. W., had his hand and part of his arm torn off in a thrashing machine on Thursday week.

—Eleven Kentuckians recently released from Fort Warren, being destitute of means, were, on Friday week, sent to their homes at the expense of Boston.

—The West India Steamship Company here, in consequence of the Trent affair, ordered all their agents to furnish no more coal to vessels of the United States.

—An invitation is issued by the "Secretary of the Metropolitan Canine Society," for dog fanciers to correspond with him in reference to holding a Dog Fair.

—A schooner has left New York for North Carolina, with provisions, clothing, and other gifts, for the loyal people of that State, who are said to be suffering.

—It is said that the Secretary of the Navy is in favor of creating the rank of admiral, and of conferring that high honor upon Commodore Charles Stewart.

—A large number of refugees, compelled to leave home on account of their Union sympathies, have arrived at Rolla, Mo., from Arkansas, and joined our army.

—The Postoffice at Leonardtown, Md., on the lower Potomac, was visited by a detective on Saturday, who bagged half a bushel of letters to and from Richmond.

—Until lately Southern papers spoke of Northern soldiers as "cowardly Hessians." Now they call them "fierce and cruel Hessians." The change is significant.

—There is a Union movement in Arkansas. The Little Rock State Journal notices the arrival of 27 prisoners, members of a secret Lincoln organization, from Van Buren Co.

—One hundred and sixteen marriage licenses were issued from the Clerk's Office of the District of Columbia during November. A large proportion of the bridegrooms are soldiers.

HORTICULTURAL.

THE END.

To all things human there must be an end; and it becomes the duty of the Horticultural Editor to write "*finis*" in the present number, for here his labors for the present year close. One more issue makes up the *fifty-two* numbers of the Rural for the year, every one of which has been issued promptly, and we hope all have reached our subscribers, and been perused with pleasure and profit. As we have stated, one more number completes the year or volume, but this will be occupied to so large an extent by a full index, which has been prepared with great care, making the work complete for binding and future reference, that we shall have no space for the horticultural matter, and therefore now make a few closing remarks.

It is sad to say farewell, but we have no reason to suppose that these are farewell words to any considerable number of our readers. Some who commenced the year by subscribing for the Rural, and who greeted its weekly visits with pleasure, are now in the tented field, devoting life's best energies to the preservation of the life of their country, breasting manfully the tide of barbarism that threatened to overflow our fair land. For this they deserve and will receive the honor of their countrymen, and of every lover of civilization and liberty. We shall no longer have to look back to '76 for our national honor and glory, for we have shown that the men of '61 are worthy descendants of noble sires, that they are prepared to meet the responsibilities of the day, with a patriotism and zeal never excelled in what has been considered the purest and best days of the Republic. These we hope will soon return to the peaceful pursuits of Horticulture and Agriculture, crowned with honor, to peruse with increased pleasure the copies of the Rural which have been preserved with care by the loved ones at home. But, notwithstanding we are thus deprived of some readers, from the many letters we have received, and from other friendly tokens, we have every reason to believe that the number of Rural readers will be increased by many thousands, for a great host are now engaged in helping to enlarge its circulation, and thus aid us in our efforts to increase knowledge and improve the taste of the people, until the waste places shall be made glad, the deserts blossom as the rose, and every man sit under his own vine, and enjoy the luscious fruits and beautiful flowers which a kind Providence has provided for the support and comfort of man.

The *Horticultural Department* we have endeavored to make as plain and practical as possible, giving just such information as is needed by the farmers and fruit-growers of the country; and to accomplish this desirable end no expense or pains have been spared. It would be difficult, we think, to find in any book or journal such a mass of information, well illustrated, as is to be found in this department the present year. The Horticultural Department for 1861 has contained as much reading matter as an ordinary book of a *thousand pages*, while we have given more and better illustrations — numbering about one hundred — than can be found in any horticultural work published in the country. So large an amount of useful horticultural matter, so well illustrated, could not be obtained in any other form for much more than the price of the Rural. The past is before our readers; for the future we have only to say that we shall be unceasing in our efforts to make this department of the Rural equal, if not superior, to any thing in the country as the assistant and guide of the amateur and horticulturist.

TREES FOR WINTER.

No class of plants are more useful and none made worse use of than evergreens. For shelter there is nothing like the Norway Spruce, yet we see many gardens and houses exposed to the northern blasts without an evergreen or tree or shrub of any kind to break the force of the fierce winter winds. Other gardens are nearly filled with evergreens, and this gives them a dark and gloomy appearance. For a screen, of course, the trees must be planted close in rows, but on the lawn, for beauty, here and there a fine specimen intermixed with other trees are all that is required. Trees with bright berries, like the Mountain Ash and Euonymous are very desirable, and give to the winter garden a bright and lively look. A correspondent thinks that evergreens, and especially evergreen shrubs, are neglected in this country, and writes us to urge our readers to give more attention to this beautiful class. It is true that there is no country where evergreens are more needed than our own. Without them, how cheerless and desolate our gardens appear full five months of the year. Our attempts to introduce new evergreens, however, have not always been crowned with success, as many things of which we had strong hopes have proved too tender for our severe climate. Then our most beautiful native evergreen shrubs, such as the Holly, the Rhododendron, and the Kalmia, are difficult to remove, and do not thrive well with common treatment and in an ordinary soil. They are not generally propagated or planted, and deserve far more attention from both nurserymen and amateurs than they have received. We have, however, many beautiful evergreen trees, that will grow as easily as a Poplar, and are hardy enough for any climate between this and the Polar Sea.

HINTS TO CULTIVATORS.

Eds. Rural New-Yorker:—Will you allow me to give, at the close of the year, a few hints to cultivators, especially to amateurs. They are such as I practice, and to which I attribute my success in the main.

If you don't understand how to do a thing, never attempt it, if you can hire some one that knows just how it should be done. If you have trees or vines to prune, or grafting or budding to be done, or a hot-bed to make and care for, or plants you wish protected in the ground or preserved in the house over the winter, don't blunder along for three or four years spoiling everything you touch, until you become discouraged and disgusted. Employ a good gardener, assist him, observe his practice, and learn as fast as you can.

Don't be stingy about the expense of the garden. Many persons who furnish their houses and dress like princes, and keep horses and a carriage, &c., and spend money as freely as water in many ways, when they come to the garden are seized with a sudden streak of economy, and are niggardly and mean in all their expenditures. If a gardener is hired he must be obtained at about the price of a common day laborer, and if plants or trees or seeds are purchased, they must be of the cheapest and consequently the poorest kinds. The consequence is the garden is put in the care of one ignorant of the profession he pretends to practice, and is poorly cared for and filled with trash. Be liberal with the garden and it will pay you a hundred fold. Remember that one seed of anything new and good is a treasure, while a quart of common poor things is not worth a cent. Good seeds are cheap at any price, and poor are dear for nothing.

After you get a good thing be liberal with it—dispense to those who will give it good care, but don't be bored with those who are always begging nice things, and then let them die from neglect. Be honest, and tell them plainly the reason why you cannot answer their calls. Always encourage taste, particularly among the poor and the children, even at some cost and sacrifice. In this way you can do a great deal of good.

The foundation of all good gardening is in having a good soil *well prepared.* This preparation consists in thorough draining, so that water will not lie nearer the surface than about two feet, and complete pulverization of the soil to about that depth, and enrichment with good stable manure. Sometimes when the soil is heavy, sand and ashes are necessary to ameliorate its character, and when very sandy, clay and muck may be used with advantage. How different from this is the common practice, which even in gardens of some pretensions are only plowed a few inches deep and smoothed over with the rake, and then the work is considered done. Is it any wonder that the trees and shrubs make a poor growth, that the flowers are much inferior to what was expected, that the vegetables are poor and tough, and almost useless, and the fruits the most inferior?

In growing hedges, exercise patience, and determine from the first to have good ones or none. Nothing looks meaner than a poor hedge, and we see them scattered all over the country, while scarcely one good one greets the eye. The main thing is to secure a good base, and this cannot be done without severe pruning. It is not well to cut three or four times during the year. Some persons never prune their hedges, and of course they fail; but others clip them every few weeks. The latter course prevents the formation of roots, and the hedge becomes weak and sickly. As a general rule, one thorough pruning in the spring is enough, but a slight pruning after the spring growth is over, just for improving the appearance of the hedge, will not do injury. The form best for a hedge is that which will give the most light and air to the under branches. Prune, therefore, in the form of a wedge—a gradual slope from the top to the bottom on both sides.

An axe may be a very good implement for the forest, but it should never be allowed in the orchard. A common pruning knife, if used perseveringly, will keep all fruit trees in shape. It is when an orchard is neglected only, that it is necessary to remove large limbs, and every one cut away injures the tree. A tree is a living object and suffers from amputation.

I might give many more hints, which would doubtless be profitable to Rural readers, and may do so at another time; but I wish now to present a few from one who, though dead, still speaketh words of wisdom, the lamented Downing. Amateur.

"Don't let insects of various kinds overrun your orchard or garden, and then lazily fold your arms and say, "It's no use, this trying to raise things, now that so many vermin are about." Spend three days, industriously, in the early stage of the matter, in putting down the rascals, and then look around you and see if a little industry is not better than grumbling.

If you want early vegetables, set yourself, in winter, about making some boxes to protect them. A few cheap boxes, a foot square, with a pane of glass in the top, to put over tender things at night, will cost you but a trifle, and will give you ten days' start of the open ground.

If you have a tree that grows "apace," but won't bear, dig a trench around it, and cut off a third of the roots. This will check its growth, and set it about making fruit buds.

If you don't love flowers yourself, don't quarrel with those who do. It is a defect in your nature which you ought to be sorry for, rather than abuse those who are more gifted. Of what possible "*use*" is the *rainbow*, we should like to know?—and yet a wiser than you did not think the earth complete without it.

Do not grudge the cost and labor necessary to plant a few of the best shade trees around your house; and if you have any doubts about what to plant, stick in an elm. There are few trees in the world finer than a fine sweeping elm; and two or three of them will give even a common looking dwelling a look of dignity. If you plant fruit trees for shade, they are likely to be broken to pieces for the fruit, and they grow unsightly by the time that forest trees grow spreading and umbrageous. There are very few men whose friends build so fair a monument to their memory, as they can raise with their own hands, by planting an elm or a maple where it can grow for a century, to be an ornament to the country.

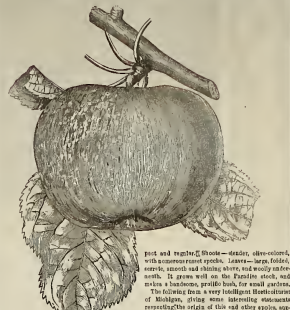
Don't be afraid to clip hedges, or cut back young trees, when you are planting them. You gain more growth than you lose, though you may not be able to comprehend it till you have seen it with your own eyes.

Never work your ground in wet weather if you can avoid it, as it makes it clod-like and compact by forcing the air out. And ridge up your kitchen garden ground before winter, so as to expose as much surface as possible to the action of the frost.

Never lose an opportunity of getting *sods* from the corners of old pastures, or the breaking up of commons or meadows, where they can be spared. Placed in heaps, and rotted, they make excellent mold for tender plants or trees.

Never buy fruit trees in the "market places," of unknown venders, who have no character to lose. You cannot tell by "examining the article," whether they cheat you or not; and you get your tree at half price, only to wish, when it comes to bear, that you had gone to an honest dealer and paid ten times as much for something worth planting.

Collect from about your neighborhood all the bones that are thrown away as useless by persons ignorant of their value."



THE MELON APPLE.

One of the very best apples we have ever tasted is the Melon, of which we give a good likeness. It has been very well described as being juicy as a peach, with a peculiar and agreeable perfume, which suggests its name. It originated, as we have good reason to believe, and as we think is acknowledged generally, with the Northern Spy, in the orchard of Oliver Chapin, of East Bloomfield, Ontario county. It was brought to the notice of Pomologists by Reuben Norton, of East Bloomfield, and first described in the Horticultural journals about sixteen years ago. Although the fruit is so fine it is not very generally cultivated, as the tree being a delicate grower is somewhat difficult of propagation, and the stock of trees has consequently been very limited. Then as it grows slowly, those who select large, fine looking trees at the nurseries, would not be very likely to select the Melon, and we have no doubt many tree planters have blamed the nurserymen for sending them small, crooked trees, when they should have thanked them for sending trees of the Melon, of any size or form. This apple, we fear, will never be grown very generally for market, as it is too tender to bear much handling, or jolting about in carriage, and the tree is not sufficiently vigorous in growth, perhaps, for profitable culture. It should have a place in every family orchard and fruit garden, and will be found the finest of all winter dessert apples.

Size — large, three to three and a half inches broad and three inches deep. Form — round, slightly flattened on the ends. Stalk — about an inch long, rather slender, and inserted in a pretty deep, regular cavity, covered with russet. Calyx — closed, large, in a large, deep basin. Skin — smooth generally, but often rendered rough to the touch by a tracing of russet, pale whitish yellow in the shade, nearly covered with light red, and frequently with bright vermillion stripes. Flesh — white, and remarkably tender, with abundance of juice, very mild sub acid, with a sort of melon flavor. Season — November to March, in Western New York. Tree — erect when young, spreading as it grows older, but still compact and regular. Shoots — slender, olive-colored, with numerous russet specks. Leaves — large, folded, serrate, smooth and shining above, and woolly underneath. It grows well on the Paradise stock, and makes a handsome, prolific bush, for small gardens.

The following from a very intelligent Horticulturist of Michigan, giving some interesting statements respecting the origin of this and other apples, supposed to have been produced in the orchard of Oliver Chapin, will be read with interest by all lovers of these excellent apples.

EARLY JOE, NORTON'S MELON, AND NORTHERN SPY.

Eds. Rural New-Yorker: — The writer, a short time since, while spending a few hours with the family of G. V. N. Lothrop, of Detroit, gathered the following particulars of the history of the above named fruits, from his mother-in-law, Mrs. Strong, who is a daughter of Heman Chapin, a brother or cousin of the Oliver Chapin in whose orchard two of these fruits are said, by Mr. Downing and others, to have originated. Mrs. Strong is not only an ardent devotee of Floriculture, but also an intelligent Pomologist; and states, positively, that the Early Joe and Northern Spy originated, not in the orchard of Oliver Chapin, but in that of her father, Heman Chapin. Mr. Lothrop, also, in corroboration of her statement, gave the following account of the manner in which the Early Joe received its name. When the original tree was commencing to bear, its good qualities were first discovered by a neighboring representative of Young America, who rejoiced in the cognomen of "Joe;" and Mr. Chapin's attention was first drawn to it by observing that this young Fillibuster had already, by his frequent visits, worn a distinct path to the tree; and had appropriated the entire crop, with the exception of a couple of specimens. He accordingly, with his pocket knife, cut in the bark of the tree the name "Early Joe," doubtless with the hope of conveying a lesson to the lad. The name, thus bestowed, has ever since been retained.

Mr. Lothrop, who, by-the-by, is one of our most careful and discriminating Pomologists, also states, that the early cultivators of the Norton's Melon did not claim its origin for that section, but that it was brought there in scions from the State of Connecticut.

Mr. Barry says of this last variety, (*Genesee Farmer* for 1848,) it is not a large fruit; but here, so far, it is decidedly large, and instead of keeping, as he says of it, till March, it cannot be relied on to continue beyond the first of February. It is a great bearer, and of the finest quality. T. T. Lyon.

Plymouth, Mich., Dec. 9th, 1861.

FRUIT IN ROCKLAND COUNTY.

Eds. Rural New-Yorker:—Your Albany correspondent, "S.," inquires if the "stony, gravelly" soil of Orange and Rockland counties of New York and the northern counties of New Jersey, is adapted to the growing of fruit, and more especially to the grape, &c. I can answer for Rockland county, N. Y., and Bergen county, N. J., that the soil in both of these counties, for the most part, is well adapted to fruit growing of all kinds—all such fruits, at least, as are suited to our latitude. Fruit growing has been a source of very considerable wealth in both the above named counties. Some of the more desirable kinds of apples formerly produced, to considerable extent—such as the Newtown Pippin, Spitzenburgh, and Jersey Sweet—are much less perfect than formerly, and seem to have had their day, but others not less valuable are taking their place, quite to the satisfaction of the fruit growers—such, for instance, as Baldwin, R. I. Greening, Northern Spy, &c.

The cultivation of the grape is mostly confined to the village of Nyack, although it is grown to a considerable extent in almost every part of Rockland county. There are several vineyards (containing in total about 200,000 vines) in Nyack, all of which are remunerative to the proprietors. The grape is also cultivated near Rockland Lake, for marketing, and thus far successfully. The experiments in grape culture thus far in Rockland county, have fully equaled expectations.

We do not doubt that fruit culture, especially the grape, is to occupy a much more important position in the above named counties than the most sanguine at present contemplate. M. O. L.

Rockland Lake, N. Y., November 28, 1861.

Horticultural Notes.

Grafting the Grape.—Since the introduction of the Delaware and other new and fine grapes, many who have plenty of old Isabellas and Catawbas are anxious to change them by grafting. In this work many have failed entirely, while others have met with partial success only. Information on this subject is looked for with eagerness. The last number of the *Horticulturist* contains the experience of a correspondent in grafting grapes, as follows:—The "subjects" of my experiments were a row of fifteen Isabellas and another of fourteen wild vines in my garden. They were an old, neglected and "rough set of customers," which an Irishman might say had been "kicked and cuffed all over creation." At least every gardener who had wielded a hoe for my predecessor seems to have given them a whack. Huge, rough, gnarled, knotty things they were, apparently impregnable, both above and below ground. But, thinking my cause a good one, I opened the campaign against these rebellious subjects as soon as the frost was out of the ground, in the last days of February, protected by a thick overcoat, and armed with one of Jackson's best English handsaws. Limbs and roots were attacked and amputated at the most assailable points, and attempts were made to split them. I had as well tried to "split a horn crossways." I was repulsed, and thought I was going to be defeated, when I luckily thought of my surgeon's saw, and put it to a good if an unaccustomed use. With it I carefully sawed out a thin wedge of wood, which I used instead of a cleft; and where the stump was very large (and some were four or five inches in diameter) I sawed out a second wedge, at right angles with the first, thus making four places for the insertion of grafts. The sawed surfaces were carefully smoothed with a sharp knife, like a scalpel; and the grafts, with but one bud, were accurately fitted in. A bass bandage was then applied, not to compress the stumps, for they were incompressible; but, I suppose, only in obedience to orders, in such cases. Soft earth was then put over the grafts. I put in fifty six Delaware grafts, of which only twenty are now living, so that but little more than one-third succeeded. Fifteen old and worthless stocks were grafted, of which eleven are now converted into (with one exception) very strong and vigorous Delaware vines, for which I would not take $10 each, as hard as are the times. On the unsuccessful stocks I may try my hand again next spring. I am, as I think I ought to be, fully satisfied with my beautiful row of Delawares. For a single season's growth they are very large, healthy and well matured, almost to the tips of the canes. The roots are so strong I shall prune them but very little, and allow them to bear all they will."

Officers Elect of the Illinois State Horticultural Society for 1862.—The annual meeting of this Society occurred in Chicago, commencing December 3 and continuing four days. It was largely attended, and the discussions interesting, spirited and profitable. Our Western Aid, who was present, will furnish an abstract of the more important parts of the discussions at an early day.

The session of the Society closed with a grand banquet, given its members and guests by the proprietors of the Tremont House in that city. We are informed that several samples of excellent "Still Catawba" were tasted and tested on the occasion. The Society elected the following officers for 1862.

President—O. B. Galusha, of Lisbon, Kendall county. *Vice Presidents*—1st District, Charles D. Bragdon, of Cook county; 2nd District, Robert Douglas, of Lake county; 3d District, Charles H. Rosenstiel, of Stephenson county; 4th District, J. H. Stewart, of Adams county; 5th District, Arthur Bryant, Jr., of Bureau county; 6th District, J. F. Nash, of La Salle county; 7th District, M. L. Dunlap, of Champaign county; 8th District, K. H. Fell, of McLean county; 9th District, N. Oearman, of Fulton county; 10th District, Jonathan Higgins, of Macoupin county; 11th District, James E. Starr, of Madison county; 12th District, G. H. Baker, of Union county. *Corresponding Secretary*—O. T. Chase, of Chicago. *Recording Secretaries*—W. C. Flagg, of Madison county, and J. T. Little, of Lee county. *Treasurer*—S. O. Minkler, of Kendall county.

Illinois State Horticultural Society.—This Society has determined to hold its next annual meeting and exhibition (combined) at Chicago, sometime in September or October next, the *time* to be fixed by the Executive Committee. It has heretofore held its exhibitions in conjunction with the Illinois State Agricultural Society. It now cuts loose from it, *as a Society*, and proposes to go alone. It is believed that the movement is a good one, and will result in giving the Society an influence it has not hitherto secured.—C. D. B.

Exhibition of the American Institute.—Not having had a public fair this year, the Institute has determined to hold an exhibition at its rooms in the second week of February next. It will be confined to improvements in Agriculture, Manufactures, and the Arts, for which the gold and silver medal of the Institute will be awarded.

Total Depravity.—From the last number of the *Tribune* we learn that, a few nights since, some person entered the garden of Solon Robinson, in Westchester County, and smote ten dwarf pear-trees, in fine bearing condition. Mr R. offers a reward of ten dollars for an introduction to this zealous horticulturist.

Petunia Madame Ferguson.—This is the name of a new and very distinct Petunia, raised by Mr Ferguson, of Stowe, England, in 1860. Being the smallest of thousands of seedlings, it did not flower till October of last year. Last spring a specimen, loaded with upward of a hundred flowers, was exhibited at the opening fete of the Royal Horticultural Society, and pronounced a most charming variety. The flowers are of a rich glossy silk white, regularly and distinctly marked with five bands or stripes of beautiful bright purplish crimson. Out-of-doors it makes a good bed,—and under glass, both to the shape of handsome pots or trained up pillars, it is both pleasing and effective.—*Florist.*

Black Lombardy and West's St. Peter's.—The *Gardeners' Monthly* says, at the November meeting of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, Mr. Saunders presented two large dishes of the Black Lombardy and West's St. Peters grapes. These two varieties are generally considered synonyms, and so laid down in horticultural works generally; but the samples presented, while quite similar in size and flavor, show some difference in the form of the bunch and color of the berry, and Mr. Saunders states that the diversity in foliage and wood is still more marked. They certainly appear to be distinct varieties.

Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.—At the last meeting of this Society, the following gentlemen were elected officers for the ensuing year: *President*—M. W. Baldwin. *Vice Presidents*—James Dundas, B. A. Fahnestock, D. R. King, Caleb Cope. *Recording Secretary*—A. W. Harrison. *Corresponding Secretary*—W. Saunders. *Treasurer*—Robert Buist. *Professor of Entomology*—S. S. Rathvon. *Professor of Botany*—Dr. W. Darlington. *Professor of Horticultural Chemistry*—James C. Booth.

Fruit Growers' Society of Western New York.—The annual meeting of the Fruit Growers' Society of Western New York will be held at the Court House, in Rochester, N. York, at 11 o'clock A. M., on Wednesday, the 8th day of January, 1862. A fine show of fruits is expected.

Fruits Received.—From L. H. Osborn, Henrietta, five specimens of the McLellan, sometimes called the Martin apple. It is an excellent apple, tender and juicy, with a fine vinous flavor; medium size. The tree is an upright, good grower, and very productive.

Domestic Economy.

HOW TO COOK CHICKENS.

Eds. Rural New-Yorker:—Please accept the following in answer to Anna C., and all others who may wish to know how to cook chickens and have them good. Boil until tender, then take out and cool, season with plenty of butter, salt, and pepper. Make a crust as for good biscuit, have the crust one-fourth of an inch thick; let the pan be filled with gravy, the rest to be served when eaten; cover with a top crust and bake one hour.

Another Way.—Boil the chicken in water enough to make a good dressing till the meat will easily slip from the bones — the latter to be all removed. Mix the meat well together, season with salt, pepper, butter, sweet cream, and a little flour. Make the crust in the same way as for the other; put in the meat with plenty of gravy; cover with paste. This does away with the choice of parts.

Stuffing for Chickens or Turkeys.—Take light bread or crackers, with the heart and gizzard, which have been boiled with the chicken until tender; chop them fine, then season with plenty of butter, salt, pepper, and two tablespoonfuls of thick sweet cream, one egg well beaten, and a little sage, moisten with the broth the chicken was boiled in. If more than one chicken is used, more eggs will be wanted.

Allen Center, N. Y., 1861. A. S. F.

Chicken Pie.—Noticing an inquiry in a late number of your paper, for the best method of making a chicken pie, I send you mother's recipe, which I think would satisfy a French epicurean.

Take one-half pint sour milk, the same quantity of sour cream, a little salt, 2 teaspoonfuls saleratus, flour, and mix the same as for biscuit. Roll out a part of it, and lay it in a six quart pan; then take a piece of butter the size of a butternut, and roll it into the remaining crust. Have your chickens (two old ones or three young ones) boiled until they are done, season them with salt, pepper, and butter, lay them nicely into the pan, put a few slices of crust with them, pour over your gravy, cover, and bake two hours.—Sallie, *Bethany, Gen. Co., N. Y.*, 1861.

Cure for Frosted Feet.—It is said that frozen feet can be speedily and certainly cured by being bathed and well rubbed with kerosene or coal oil, for a few times at night before retiring to bed. Several persons have already tried it, all of whom unite in pronouncing it an effectual cure, which, if they are correct, is an easy and cheap mode of getting rid of a very sore and troublesome affliction. Those who have tried it inform us that the feet should be well warmed by a hot stove during and after the application of the oil, and it will certainly effect a speedy cure. Persons suffering from the pain of frosted feet will no doubt do well in giving it a trial, for it is surely a very cheap ointment, and one that is very easily applied.—*Harrisburgh Union.*

Cure for the Ear Ache.—Take a small piece of cotton batting or cotton wool, make a depression in the center with the finger, and fill it up with as much ground pepper as will rest on a five cent piece; gather it into a ball and tie it up, dip the ball into sweet oil and insert it in the ear, covering the latter with cotton wool, and use a bandage or cap to retain it in its place. Almost instant relief will be experienced, and the application is so gentle that an infant will not be injured by it, but experience relief as well as adults.

Recipe for Sausages.—As the time has arrived for making sausages, I presume that many Rural subscribers would like to see the following recipe, viz.: for forty pounds of meat, 1 pound salt; 3 ounces pepper; ½ pint sage, pulverized; 1 teacup molasses. A. Willson, *Marcellus, N. Y.*, 1861.

To Take Rust from Flat Irons.—Perhaps every one does not know that bees wax rubbed on when the iron is moderately heated, and the iron smartly rubbed on a woolen cloth, will remove rust entirely.—Betty Wrinkle, *Elkhorn, Wis.*, 1861.

Hardening Tallow for Candles.—In the first place, tallow should be well cooked when trying with the scraps, and then if it is soft add four ounces of alum to ten pounds of tallow when melting for dipping your candles.—I. M. W., *Moreland, N. Y.*, 1861.

[SPECIAL NOTICE.]

To the Ladies.—Ladies, if you only knew how much difference there is between a good and a poor article of Saleratus, you would never use any other but D. B. De Land & Co.'s Chemical Saleratus. It is truly what it claims to be, the "housewife's favorite," and we are happy to see that our lady friends are finding it out and using nothing else.

Ladies' Department.

[Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.]

THEN AND NOW.

BY JENNY A. STONE.

A voice is ringing sweet and clear
In the leafless grove below,
And every note of that rippling song,
And every word, I knew.

In my childhood's home I heard it first,
And my throbbing heart kept time
To the words that rang like silver bells,
And the music of the rhyme.

The same sweet voice is singing now
As it sang in days that are fled,
But the magic that charmed my soul is lost,
And my love's young dream is dead.

Could the heavy years be lifted up
That are weighing my heart so low,
The blood might spring to my cheek again,
And the fountains of feeling flow.

And yet I am listening, pale and still,
To words that have filled my heart
With fire which the ice of years has cooled,
Yet never could heal the smart.
And the last sweet words go floating past,
Love's life on one frail venture cast.

Grand Rapids, Mich., 1861.

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[Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.]

FEMALE EDUCATION.

WOMAN should be educated equally with man. The mind needs nourishment,—it longs for cultivation and development,—it desires to be beautifully refined and purified.

Woman should be educated equally with man because her capacities are equal. He may be superior in mere bodily strength, but not in mental power. Women have ranked side by side with men of proudest name. We would fail in telling of the MARYS and CATHARINES, ELIZABETHS and Lady GREYS, countesses and duchesses who rivaled poets and excelled statesmen, who subdued kingdoms and routed armies. Such cases show the *intellectuality* of woman. They are indeed striking instances. It may be said that no women could stand side by side with BACON and NEWTON in philosophy; with HANNIBAL, CÆSAR, and NAPOLEON, in arms. But what have been her opportunities thus to distinguish herself?

In *perception*, *imagination* and *sensibility*, if not in *memory*, woman is superior to man. Her emotions are more refined, and her affections more lively and persistent. None but a noble woman would ply her needle night and day to educate a brother. Who, save the poor old grandmother, could deprive herself of food and raiment to keep the orphan children of a beloved son from the alms-house?

Woman's delineations of character are more accurate, and her descriptions of nature more perfect. Her views of right are generally more vivid, and her moral impulses more powerful. Pity, gentleness and compassion are among her marked characteristics. It is *woman* that in her pity will administer to the dying invader of her country, even at the risk of her life.

Surely woman is worthy of an education as good, both in kind and degree, as man's, for she is his educator. The school, the academy, the college, may do much in forming the character of man, but the mother more. Show me an illustrious mother whose son is not worthy of her. It would be scarcely possible. She may be driven by misfortune to the wilderness, but even in wood and widowhood she will train up a philosopher.

As soon as the child walks the earth the mother begins to give him some idea of its beauty. As the wind howls through the trees at night, she tells him of the nature of the air he breathes, so that from the first the spirit of philosophy shall shut out idol superstition from his mind. As the first ray of the golden sun appears in the east, she begins to teach him the law of light. She leads him out in the evening, and as the moon comes forth with her train of stars, she directs his mind to the wonders of the great solar system, and the mind loves to learn that the sun is the center around which the planets and their satellites revolve in their respective journeys.

Thus that pure young *mind*, yet unacquainted with the evil thoughts of life, is being *expanded*, being led up in the paths of truth, and is learning to long for wisdom. Such is woman's power,—such the necessity of her equal education. O. A. BAXTER.

Woodhull, N. Y., 1861.

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[Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.]

A PLEA FOR "YOUNG LADIES."

"IT is an uncommon thing to find a young lady now-a-days that half pays for the food she eats."—*Rural New-Yorker.*

A "SWEEPING assertion" truly, and as unjust and libelous as it is broad. There *may* be "young ladies," brought up in all the luxury of wealth, who live in selfish indolence and ease, and do not "half pay for the food they eat," but it would be an "uncommon thing" to find such an one in our country and village homes. We believe the *majority* fully and fairly earn all they get.

Why, what would you have us do? We knit and sew, we take a willing part in *every* department of domestic labor, and find time to "crochet a little," and *read the papers* beside. If not needed at home, we go out from its protecting shelter and seek employment elsewhere, toiling in the kitchen, in the shop, or in the school-room, for the *half pay* which is allowed to woman for her labor. What would you have more? Is it necessary in order to "half pay for the food we eat" that we should do all the milking, the spinning, and weaving, as did our grandmothers and great-grandmothers? Some of us even do this, but do you not know that the wheel and loom are not as generally used now as they once were,—that the former was long ago stored away in the attic, and the latter burned for kindling wood?

You may call us *lazy!* So would the savage, because we do not cultivate the maize, gather the wood, and bring home the hunter's game. You call us *delicate!* Perhaps we do not possess the bodily vigor and the power of endurance that our ancestors did, but we have the strength and ability to take care of ourselves, and while we possess these, scorn to be dependent upon any one.

Yes, we *do* earn, not only our food, but our clothing, our *entire living*, and in many instances a *thorough, practical education.* OMEGA.

Jamestown, N. Y., 1861.

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PEOPLE who are always talking sentiment, have usually no very deep feelings. The less water you have in your kettle, the sooner it begins to make a noise and smoke.

MARRIED LIFE.

IN domestic happiness, the wife's influence is much greater than her husband's; for the one, the first cause—mutual love and confidence—being granted, the whole comfort of the household depends upon trifles more immediately under her jurisdiction. By her management of small sums, her husband's respectability and credit are created or destroyed. No income can stand the constant leakages of extravagance and mismanagement; and more is spent in trifles than women can easily believe. The one great expense, whatever it may be, is turned over and carefully reflected on ere incurred—the income is prepared to meet it; but it is pennies imperceptibly sliding away which do the mischief; and this the wife alone can stop, for it does not come within a man's province. There is often an unsuspected trifle to be saved in every household. It is not in economy alone that the wife's attention is so necessary, but in those niceties which make a well-regulated house. An unfinished cruet stand, a missing key, a buttonless shirt, a soiled table-cloth, a mustard pot with its old contents sticking hard and brown about it, are severally nothing, but each can raise an angry word or discomfort. Depend upon it, there's a great deal of domestic happiness in a tidy breakfast table. Men grow sated of beauty, tired of music, are often too weary for conversation, however intellectual, but they can always appreciate a well-swept hearth and smiling comfort. A woman may love her husband devotedly, may sacrifice fortune, friends, family and country for him—she may have the genius of a Sappho, the enchanting beauties of an Armida; but—melancholy fact—if, with these, she fail to make his home comfortable, his heart will inevitably escape her; and women live so entirely in the affections, that, without love, their existence is a void. Better submit, then, to household tasks, however repugnant they may be to your tastes, than doom yourself to a loveless home. Women of a higher order of mind will not run the risk; they know that their feminine, their domestic, are their first duties.

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MISS FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.

THE friends of this inestimable lady will regret to learn that her health continues extremely precarious, and it will be seen from the following letter, that Miss Nightingale herself appears to entertain but little hope of her ultimate recovery:

"HAMPSTEAD, N. W., Oct. 22, 1861.

"MY DEAR SIR:—I very well remember the kindness of your 1,800 men when they addressed me some years ago from Newcastle. It is the remembrance of that kindness which makes me feel now that I must answer your note with my own hand, although ill-health and overwhelming business seldom allow me to do so, even to my nearest friends.

"I have ventured to send you, by post, six copies of my little book on nursing, which you may find useful among your people. Also two books on the Crimean army, published some years ago, and which I think I may have sent you before. If so, do not trouble yourself to return them. In answer to your kind inquiry, I have passed the last four years between four walls, only varied to other four walls once a year; and I believe there is no prospect but of my health becoming even worse and worse till the hour of my release. But I have never ceased, during one waking hour since my return to England, five years ago, laboring for the welfare of the army at home, as I did abroad. And no hour have I given to friendship or amusement during that time, but all to work. To that work the death of my dear chief, Sidney Herbert, has been a fatal blow. I assure you it is always a support-giving strength to me to find a national sympathy with the army and our efforts for it,—such a sympathy as you express. Believe me, dear Sir, sincerely yours, FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.

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COLD UNINVITING ROOMS.

THE following from one of Beecher's recent sermons, contains a good hint:

"When you go into some men's houses you find the halls gloomy and forbidding. The old pyramids of Egypt are not so dark and bleak as the entrances to some dwellings. It seems to me as though the door ought to be the most attractive place in a house, so that on approaching it one should feel assured that there was hospitality within. And the hall should be cosy and warm. I hate narrow halls, I hate a hall with bare walls, that seem to say, 'Starve! starve! starve!' But the halls of many a house are cold and barren and uninviting. And some people keep their parlor everlastingly in order, as if it were arranged for a funeral; and nobody goes into it without feeling as if he was at a funeral, except that the minister and the services are wanting. The carpet says, 'Do not touch me;' and every chair and sofa says, 'It is an impertinence to sit on me;' and every piece of furniture says, 'Let me alone;' and the whole room says, 'What are you doing here?' A man leads you through an inhospitable door and a disagreeable hall into a stiff parlor; and you say, 'If the people that live here are like these things, I do not want to have anything to do with them.'"

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DISAPPOINTMENT IN MARRIAGE.—"Listen, I pray you, to the stories of the disappointed in marriage; collect all their complaints; hear their mutual reproaches; upon what fatal hinge do the greatest part of them turn? They were mistaken in the person—some disguise, either of body or mind, is seen through in the first domestic scuffle; some fair ornament—perhaps the very one which won the heart, the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit—falls off. It is not the Rachel for whom I have served. Why hast thou then beguiled me? Be open; be honest; give yourself for what you are; conceal nothing; varnish nothing; and if these fair weapons will not do, better not conquer at all, than conquer for a day; when the night is passed 'twill never be the same story. And it came to pass, behold, it was Leah!"—*Timothy Titcomb.*

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CHILDREN are a good deal of trouble, no doubt, (your mothers made the remark years ago,) but no married gentleman's house is complete without them. The tidiest and prettiest fireside in the world is a cold affair, in spite of wood or coal, if there are no "olive branches" about. We have seen such, and found them

"Cheerless as a pew
In a cold church without a lass to view."

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THE sweetest and most satisfactory connections in life are those formed between persons of congenial minds, equally linked together by the conformity of their virtues, and by the ties of esteem.

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WHEN children who are born with silver spoons in their mouths grow up, there is seldom anything of them left but the spoons.

Choice Miscellany.

[Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.]

BROADWAY MUSINGS.

BY GEO. W. DRAPER.

[TO THE EDITOR.—These lines of mine—written for MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER—express some of the cogitations and queries of a *Ruralist* on that famous street of our great metropolis—Broadway.—G. W. D.]

We strolled on big Broadway one day,
And what do you think thought we?
That you, or any other man,
Could here find much to see.

We saw bouquets of blooming belles,
With petals fair and sweet—
How strange that flowers so bright will bloom
On such a stony street.

We've seen fair flowers in forest wild
And on the prairie wide,
We've seen their smiles in modest vale
And on the mountain side.

In those wild haunts the seeds of Art
Had never yet been sown,
And "Nature's sweet and cunning hand"
Won trophies all her own.

But here within this "mighty mart,"
This "center of the world,"
Nature lies low beneath "the rocks"
Which Art so fiercely hurled.

A few sad trees are struggling still
To branch out *a la mode*,
Forlornly hoping still to dwell
In Broadway's rocky road.

Since Nature's breast, so wondrous kind,
Has here been turned to stone,
Trees faint and die, and Nature yields
No sympathetic groan.

When ADAM and his loving EVE
Through Eden took their way,
Did their prophetic eyes behold
Their children in Broadway?

When EVE sewed fig leaves for a dress,
And longed for nothing more,
Did she suppose her "girls" would trade
At STEWART'S mammoth store?

That primal pair knelt all alone
Unseen by other people,
And little thought what crowds would bend
'Neath Trinity's proud steeple.

They little thought of many things
That happen in our day,
Still less did either ever dream
Of this, our *big Broadway*.

Geddes, N. Y., 1861.

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[Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.]

EVERY-DAY LIFE.

BY LEAD PENCIL, ESQ.

THE writer hereof has no sympathy with the class who decry ambition—who clothe every continued effort to get more, in the garb of avarice. LEAD PENCIL, ESQ., does not look on life with a morbid mind—with an eye swift to detect and magnify these molehill idiosyncrasies of men's characters into mountains of meanness. It is a gratification to be able to dispose of these delicate questions relating to the motives of men, by the mental assertion, "Sir, it is none of your business; you do not, and cannot stand precisely where you can look at the same object with the same light and from the same point that your neighbor does. Attend, therefore, to your own affairs, if you please, sir."

But ——

I sat down in neighbor NIMBLE'S kitchen the other night—a great, big, back kitchen, with a great, big, black stove in it, on which was a great, big boiler, containing pumpkin, "stewing to dry," Mrs. NIMBLE told me, when she saw I looked into the steaming mass as I passed it; "for," said she, "Mr. NIMBLE is very fond of pies, and pumpkin is easily dried, and makes excellent pies, without costing much for sweetening, you know," ——

"Which is an all-fired big item these war times, I swow," said NEHEMIAH NIMBLE, as he sat in one corner of the large room, astride an apple-paring machine, which he was plying with great vigor, in order to keep his two big boys and the two bigger hired men employed during the autumn evening. "I tell *you*, Mister PENCIL, a fellow has got to squeeze and screw every way these days in order to keep the breath of life in him, and things a moving." I consider that I've seen some hard times in my day. When I used to wear tow breeches all winter, and live on bean porridge," ——

"Hot or cold?" abruptly asked a wicked-looking, black-eyed youngster, called ZEB. NIMBLE, the youngest of the family.

"You shet up, sir, and look out that you don't cut away so much of that apple with the core. Don't let *me* see such a big core as that out from an apple again, sir! ——and, as I was saying, I've seen some hard times in my day, but I swow, never anything like this; we have to dig night and day, and don't get on much, nuther. The fact is, our Government don't seem to care how much we do spend to put down this infernal rebellion, and ——

"Father, I've finished them apples; now mayn't I run down to Mr. NELSON'S and borrow his paper? I heard JIM CROW say to day that Washington was took, and LINCOLN had put to sea in a canal boat to escape the Secesh. I reckon there's stirring news by this time—say, mayn't I go?" and the young hopeful, ZEB., winked one of his black eyes at LEAD PENCIL, ESQ., and as he stooped to pick up his knife he had let fall on purpose, he whistled and murmured in my ear, "O what a whopper!—but father wont take a paper, and he don't know any better."

"Yes, run right down as quick as you can, ZEB.—be spry about it—and tell Mister NELSON that I hope he won't think that we want to sponge his papers to read. I vow, it's just as I expected; they've likely got Washington and the White House and them Patent Office seeds, and all in spite of Old SCOTT and all the rest of 'em."

"Why! don't you take any paper, Mr. NIMBLE?"

"No, sir; I made up my mind three years ago that I'd never have another paper in my house. They are a distraction to me; and I can't get my boys or men to do anything of an evening when there's a paper about; it is read, read, read, and they burn out more candles than they earn during the day. Why, sir, my ZEB. there, is crazy most of the time after papers, and argues with me that it is *economy* to take a half dozen! But I won't have 'em around *me*,—do hurry up, ZEB., and get that paper of NELSON'S; I want to know what the news is."

There was an exchange of significant glances between ZEB. and his mother; the latter invited LEAD PENCIL, ESQ., to go and see her cheese, and ZEB. bounded out of the door. Once in the cheese-room, Mrs. NIMBLE said, "ZEB. insisted I should tell you that while his father is perfectly willing to borrow a paper, he is not willing to pay for one. Accordingly, since the war broke out, ZEB. made an arrangement with neighbor NELSON, who takes a daily himself, by which he receives *two*, one of which belongs to ZEB. individually, he having paid for it out of his own savings. Accordingly, while his father supposes he is borrowing it, ZEB. receives regularly, and reads *his own* paper. Father does not seem to notice that the paper has never been unfolded—that it is received ten minutes after the mail comes in. There is no one who listens more eagerly to the news; but he cares little for aught else. It is wicked to deceive, I know; but I had rather risk the evil that follows such deception, than let my boys starve for want of knowledge. ZEB. saved his father fifty dollars a few weeks ago, by watching the wool market. He was on the point of selling at low figures. ZEB., satisfied that it would rise, when sent to tell the man that he could have it, told him he could *not* have it. The next day he told his father that wool was going up. The buyer of course did not come for it, and finally Mr. NIMBLE said he should not have it if he did come. The wicked ZEB. was, of course, pleased. Yesterday, the wool was sold at just $50 more than it was going for when ZEB. blocked the sale. That is only one item of the boy's capers. He is going to tell his father all about it when the right time comes."

—"Most excellent cheese—very fine, Mrs. NIMBLE," I was careful to say, as we re-entered the kitchen.

"Cheese are awful low—no profit on cheese this year, said NEHEMIAH.

ZEB. just then came in, and flashed a proud twinkle from his eye over to me as he held up his "borrowed paper," at the same time saying, "Father, Mr. NELSON had not opened this paper to read it when I got there, but he handed it right over to me to take home and read first; don't you think we ought to be ashamed for asking for it under such circumstances?"

"Why, if he don't want to lend it, why don't he say so? If he can afford to lend it without reading it, I am sure we can afford to borrow. But it does look rather mean—that's a fact.

ZEB.'s eyes flashed like meteors, as he unfolded the paper with emphatic jerks. LEAD PENCIL, ESQ., bade the family "good evening," and walked home.

Now I happen to *know* that the RURAL is "borrowed" by that family in precisely this way; and I wish to tell Mr. NIMBLE (for he will read this article,) that I regard him excellent material for a traitor. He would be the first fellow I should select.

LEAD PENCIL, ESQ., begs leave to say that this idiosyncrasy of NIMBLE'S is *meanness* with a mountain's proportions. But it is *one* of the phases of every-day life.

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[Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.]

ACT NATURAL.

FOR conscience sake, whatever you do, act natural. Don't put on airs and try to imitate somebody, else you only make a fool of yourself. You may mince, and simper, and wriggle, and twist,—it is all the same if it is not natural,—people will see through it and make fun of you. Don't feel so big because the wealthy Mr. BLANK happens to notice you a little, or you chance to be better dressed than your neighbor. One person is no better than another in this country, except as he behaves better. Act natural,—act as though you had some sense. When you talk, talk natural. It is no sign of a smart man that you are obliged to carry a dictionary in your pocket in order to understand him. The best educated use the simplest words. When you write, write natural. Be original. Don't try to palm off some other person's thoughts for your own. If you hav'nt got any thoughts, lay down your pen and keep your head shut. Don't give us a "wishy washy" mixture composed of bits gleaned from different writers, but purporting to come from the brain of Miss ANGELINA SERAPHINA DOLABELLA TWIGGS. Why, you can't deceive anybody. BEECHER has a style of his own; FANNY FERN is FANNY FERN everywhere; none but BRYANT can write his poetry; and when you are silly enough to try to imitate them, you must not wonder if you make yourself ridiculous, I don't believe we should be troubled with quite as much sloppy literature as we are. There are enough in the world who can write,—and I wish to goodness that those who can't would be silent. But my text is, act natural; and I say it again, whatever you do—whether you eat, drink, walk, or talk—be natural. It makes you look and feel better in all places. "Thus endeth the first lesson." X.

November, 1861.

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THE DEATH OF THE WAR HORSE.

VERY fine things have been said and painted about the death of the stag, the death of the boar, and kindred subjects, but much more terrible and impressive is the death of the war horse. The war steed is noble as he "paweth in the valley and rejoiceth in his strength!" He is fearful in the pride of his onset, snorting and tramping like the White horse of Hengist in the front of the battle; and rushing with his rider through the fiery turmoil of the thundering fight!

"Neigh in thy pride, my courser brave—
Trample beneath thine hoof tyrant and slave!"

But he is most terrible in his grandeur as he "saith among the trumpets Ha! Ha!" his fury roused by a mortal stroke! When that young and gallant soldier, Col. Wm. H. Lytle, left Cincinnati at the head of the 10th Ohio regiment, certain of his friends presented him with a splendid black charger. That it was as fine a horse for martial purposes as ever reveled in the pastures of Ohio or old Kentucky, we were assured at the time, and we believed it, for we knew the man who selected him—a dealer fit to have bought and sold Bucephalus himself. This horse Col. Lytle rode in the late battle on the Gauley river, in Western Virginia, where Floyd defended his intrenchments until dark, and then fled with precipitation under cover of the night. Then and there the noble black charger died "in harness," while his gallant rider fell before the enemy's embrasures, stricken with a severe, but happily not mortal wound. With ringing shout and bloody spur and saber flourished high, the Colonel was leading on his valiant men to charge Floyd's intrenchment, when a shot struck his leg and passed through it into the body of his horse. Almost upon the parapet they were. The wounded leg had lost its clip, and with a mad bound into the air the steed threw his rider. Still with his front to the cannons of the foe, welling up life-blood and snorting with a frenzied fury, the war-horse made another bound or two, cleared at one last leap the parapet of the intrenched camp, and falling, died inside.

The foe, with boundless admiration at the chivalrous courage of the man, thought they had killed him; and then dividing his pistols and accoutrements among their officers, lamented the death of his gallant black horse.—*Wilkes' Spirit.*

Sabbath Musings.

[Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.]

REST FOR THE WEARY.

BY MARGARET ELLIOTT.

If I were lying, stretched and still,
With cold hands folded on my breast,
Oh, blessed respite from Life's ill,
How calmly, sweetly should I rest!

I should not think then of the past,
Its smothered pains, its buried wrong;
Ah, not my lips would then have learned
From angel lips the angels' song.

Ah, me! Death brings so sweet a rest
That we, tired children, turn from Life,
Glad to shut out its loud turmoil,
Its vain regrets, its ceaseless strife.

Gainesville, N. Y., 1861.

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A LAND BEHIND THE MOUNTAINS.

THE little child was dying. His weary limbs were racked with pain no more. The flush was fading from his thin cheeks, and the fever that had been for weeks drying up his blood, was now cooling rapidly under the touch of the icy hand that was upon him.

There were sounds and tokens of bitter but suppressed grief in that dim chamber, for the dying boy was one very dear to many hearts.

They knew that he was departing, and the thought was hard to bear, but they tried to command their feelings, that they might not disturb the last moments of their darling.

The father and mother, and the kind physician stood beside dear Eddy's bed, and watched his heavy breathing. He had been silent for some time, and appeared to sleep. They thought it might be thus that he would pass away; but suddenly his blue eyes opened wide and clear, and a beautiful smile broke over his features. He looked upward and forward first, then, turning his eyes upon his mother's face, said in a sweet voice: "Mother, what is the name of the beautiful country that I see beyond the mountains—the high mountains?"

"I can see nothing, my child," said the mother; "there are no mountains in the sight of our house."

"Look there, dear mother," said the child, pointing upward, "yonder are the mountains. Can you see them now?" he asked in tones of the greatest astonishment, as his mother shook her head.

"They are near me now—so large and high; and behind them the country looks so beautiful, and the people are so happy—*there are no sick children there!* Papa, can you not see behind the mountains? Tell me the name of that land."

The parents glanced at each other, and with united voices replied: "The land you see is heaven—is it not, my child?"

"Yes, it is heaven. I thought that must be the name. Oh, let me go—but how shall I cross those mountains? Father, will you not carry me? Take me in your arms and carry me, for they call me from the other side, and I must go."

There was not a dry eye in that chamber, and upon every heart there fell a solemn awe, as if the curtain which concealed its mysteries was about to be withdrawn.

"O, mother—O, father! do not cry, but come with me and cross the mountains—oh, come!" and thus he entreated with a strength and earnestness which astonished all.

The chamber was filled with wondering, awe-stricken friends. At length he turned to his mother, with a face beaming with rapturous delight, and stretching out his little arms for the last embrace, he cried, "Good-by, mother, I am going, but don't you be afraid—the strong man has come to carry me over the mountains."

These were his parting words. Upon his mother's breast he breathed his last, and they laid the little fair body down again upon the pillows, and closed the lids over the beautiful blue eyes, over which the mist of death had gathered heavily, and bowing by the bedside they prayed with submissive but bleeding hearts, and said: "The Lord gave, and the Lord taketh away: blessed be the name of the Lord."

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RE-UNION IN HEAVEN.

How short is the earthly history of a family! A few short years, and those who are now embraced in a family circle will be scattered. The children, now the objects of tender solicitude, will have grown up and gone forth to their respective stations in the world. A few years more, and children and parents will have passed from this earthly stage. Their names will be no longer heard in their present dwelling. Their domestic loves and anxieties, happiness and sorrows, will be a lost and forgotten history. Every heart in which it was written will be moldering in the dust. And is this all? Is this the whole satisfaction which is provided for some of the strongest feelings of our hearts? How can such transitory beings, with whom our connection is so brief, engage all the love we can feel? Why should not our feelings toward them be as feeble and unsatisfactory as they? But blessed be God, this is not all. Of this he has given us perfect assurance in the Gospel of his Son. Though to the eye of an unenlightened nature the ties of domestic love seem scattered into the dust, the spiritual eye of faith perceives that they have been loosened on earth, only to be resumed under far happier circumstances in the region of everlasting bliss and love. Though the history of a family may seem to be forgotten when the last member of it is laid in the grave, the memory of it still lives with immortal souls, and when the circle is wholly dissolved on earth, it is again completed in heaven.

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THERE ARE NO TRIFLES.—There are no such things as trifles in the biography of man. Drops make up the sea. Acorns cover the earth with oaks, and the ocean with navies. Sands make up the bar in the harbor's mouth, on which vessels are wrecked; and little things in youth accumulate into character in age, and destiny in eternity. All the links in that glorious chain which is in all and around all, we can see and admire, or at least admit; but the staple to which all is fastened, and which is the conductor of all, is the Throne of Deity.

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DESPONDING CHRISTIANS.—When in a despondent mood, look on the good things which God has given you in such bountiful profusion, and at the greater good things which he has promised you in the next world, and a cheerful gratitude may take the place of despondency. Don't dwell on the dark side of things, but on life's brighter aspects. "He who goes into his garden to seek for cobwebs and spiders, no doubt will find them; while he who looks for a flower may return into his house with one blooming in his bosom."

Useful, Scientific, &c.

[Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.]

EYES AND GLASSES.

HERE I speak of eyes only in respect to their adaptation to seeing, or to vision of objects large or small, near or remote. As the benevolent design of the Creator is by the eyes to enlarge our knowledge of material objects, the contrivance for this purpose, and the adaptation of light and objects to vision, must be necessary. Thus, the eyes generally are formed; they are *normal* eyes, or eyes acting according to *laws* the infinite Creator has established. Such eyes answer the great end designed.

Besides this normal and distinct vision, we find the *near-sighted* and the *long-sighted.*

Some children and young persons bring the object very near, in order to make it appear *distinct*. They are near-sighted. As such become older, they are able to see when the object is more distant, because their eyes undergo the necessary change. When young they need the aid of *concave* glasses, which they are usually able to dispense with in later years, because their eyes have now passed into the normal condition. To the *near-sighted* the view is very limited; one cannot distinguish his friend across a room or church, and often is charged with neglecting friends in the streets when he has not even seen them. I have known a young lady who could not learn to tell the time on the clock, though she played well on the organ; but at the age of twenty she saw for the first time the hands on the clock-face, and then learned her inability to tell the time of day by pointers never seen by her before. By the near-sighted the beauties of a landscape and the grandeur of mountain scenery are never seen till the concave glasses are used. To such the horizon is limited to a very short distance, as effectually as if they were inclosed in close high walls. That a complete remedy is at hand for such imperfection of vision, is wonderful, and its employment is accessible by all. The proper glasses unfold to such the beauties of our world. The only wonder is that any should refuse the boon thus providentially presented.

The *long-sighted* vision may occur in either *old* or *young.* From use, the normal, or common eyes, undergo a change. Small objects, like the point of a pin or the eye of a needle, cannot be seen; and the common type or letters must be removed from the eye further than has been usual, or they cannot be distinguished; and with more years, such objects cannot be seen by ordinary light at any distance, while large and distant objects are seen as perfectly as ever. This change begins about the age of forty-five, and constantly but slowly increases, till often, in very old and healthy age, the eyes return to their normal state. No preventive of this *long-sighted* condition has been discovered. But entire relief from the imperfection is found either in the use of plain or of convex glasses. The more convex glasses are necessary for increasing years as long as the defect remains. It was long since said of optics by a distinguished philosopher, that the advantage [illegible]eived by mankind from the use of spectacles "is [illegible]rior to no other benefit, not absolutely requisite [illegible]he support of life. Forlorn must have been the [illegible]ition of many young, and almost all old people, [illegible]n this admirable invention." All this was said [illegible] it was known that *children and young persons* [illegible] *long-sighted.*

This is the last class of defective or abnormal eyes. So far as is known, this was an accidental discovery. A youth, who found it difficult to distinguish common print, happening to put on his grandmother's convex glasses, was at once delighted to find that he saw with entire distinctness all objects, near and far, as well as small and large, and was in the midst of a world full of beauty and splendor. Many other children and young persons have made the same discovery in the same way. Such defect was soon found to be not uncommon, and *old glasses*, as the convex spectacles of old persons were called, came to be used by many young persons, with the same benefit as the *near-sighted* had derived from *concave* glasses. In the school of one of our missionaries at Beirut, an Arab girl used her grandmother's *old glasses* in her studies, before her teacher, the missionary, had ever heard of young eyes that were long-sighted or needed convex glasses for distinct and easy vision. A clergyman used these convex glasses till more than forty years of age, when his eyes began to take on the normal type, and he could read without them; and another clergyman, who used concave glasses for his near-sighted vision till near sixty years of age, found them no longer needed through the latter years of his life. Both near-sighted and long-sighted children may, therefore, expect that their eyes will become normal after middle life, and their glasses cease to be useful to them.

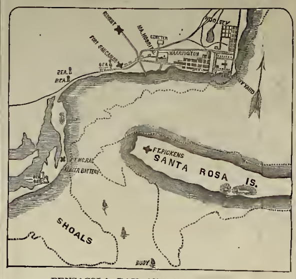
Many youth with long-sighted eyes still suffer from this abnormal vision, because the above facts are not known or appreciated. If any such shall come to this knowledge, and enjoy the benefit of convex glasses, one great object of these lines will be accomplished.

There is no great mystery in this use of these different glasses. In the near-sighted eyes, the convex lens of the eye is too far forward, and the concave glasses form the image further back, and thus make the view distinct. In the long-sighted the lens is too far back, and the convex lens brings the image forward, so as to affect the same distinctness of vision. Though other causes may have some influence, the position of the lens is probably the principal. In how many cases the gifts of philosophy to man are beneficent and rich. Spectacles have not been in use more than six hundred years, and very partially till the last two or three centuries. In the present state of society they are an absolute necessity. C. D.

Rochester, N. Y., November, 1861.

THINK.—Thought engenders thought. Place one idea upon paper, another will follow, and still another, until you have written a page. You can not fathom your mind. There is a well of thought there which has no bottom. The more you draw from it, the more clear and fruitful it will be. If you neglect to think yourself, and use other people's thoughts, giving them utterance only, you will never know what you are capable of. At first your ideas may come in lumps—homely and shapeless—but no matter; time and perseverance will arrange and polish them. Learn to think, and you will learn to write; the more you think the better you will be enabled to express your ideas.

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES says:—"Our brains are seventy year clocks. The angel of life winds them up once for all, he closes the doors, and gives the key into the hands of the angel of Resurrection."



PENSACOLA BAY AND ITS DEFENCES.

THE recent engagement between the Federal forces in Fort Pickens and the rebels in Forts McRae, Barrancas, and various water batteries, and also the fact that considerable bodies of troops have lately left Northern ports for Santa Rosa Island, tends at present to direct the public mind to Pensacola and vicinity. That our readers may fully understand the "situation," we give a map of the Island and its surroundings.

Pensacola Bay sets up from the Gulf of Mexico about eleven miles, and is divided into three parts. The west arm, called Escambia Bay, is eleven miles long and four broad, and receives Escambia River from the north. The middle arm, of about the same size, is called the Yellow Water Bay, and receives the waters of Yellow Water River through several mouths. Black Water Bay, seven miles long and two broad, is attached to the North-West end of Yellow Water Bay, is full of islands, and receives the waters of Black Water River and Cedar Creek. East Bay is seven miles long, and tapers to a small river near St. Rosa's Sound. This admits frigates of the largest class, and is entirely sheltered from all winds. Its entrance, between Fort Barrancas and the west end of St. Rosa Island, is about three-fourths of a mile wide.

Pensacola City is situated on a dry, sandy plain, rising gently forty or fifty feet above the water, and is ten miles distant from the entrance to the bay, in the direction indicated by the arrow in our engraving. The shore at Pensacola City is low, and only vessels of light draft can come up to the town.

The opening of the present year found Pensacola and its approaches prepared for defence by means of Fort Pickens, on the westerly end of Santa Rosa Island, Fort McRea, across the channel to the westward, and Fort Barrancas, on the main land, across the channel, north from Fort Pickens. Further up the bay is Warrington and the United States Navy Yard, the latter covering nearly eighty acres of ground, inclosed by a high brick wall.

FORT PICKENS.

Of these defences, Fort Pickens is the most important, both from its position and construction. It is built on a low, sandy spot in the westernmost end of Santa Rosa Island. It is a first class bastioned work, with walls of brick and bitumen on foundations of stone. The walls are forty feet high by twelve feet in thickness. It is embrasured for two tiers of guns, in bomb-proof casemates, and one tier *en barbette* in open. It has all the usual arrangements of a first class work, and its guns radiate to all points of the horizon, with flank and enfilading fire in the ditches and every angle of approach. Its guns command the other forts and the navy yard. The work was commenced in 1828, and completed in 1853, at a cost of nearly one million dollars. A full garrison consists of 1,200 soldiers. The armament, at the commencement of the hostilities, consisted of—in bastion, 26 twenty-four pound howitzers; casemant, 2 forty-two pounders, 64 thirty-two pounders, 59 twenty-four pounders; *en barbette,* 24 eight-inch howitzers, 6 eighteen pounders, 12 twelve pounders, 1 ten-inch columbiad, mounted, and 4 ten-inch mortars, in bad order.

FORT M'RAE.

This is a powerful and castle-like structure of masonry, built on a low sand-spit of the main land, and appears to rise out of the water. Before reaching Fort Pickens, an invading fleet will have to pass the gauntlet of guns which bear upon it from this fort; and although its armament is not so heavy as that of Pickens, it is powerful enough, if fully manned and skillfully worked, to give serious trouble. The present armament consists of three tiers of guns, two under bomb-proof casemates, and the upper one *en barbette.* In the lower, or water-tier, there are 22 forty-two pounders; in the middle-tier 12 eight-inch columbiads, 18 thirty-two pounders, and *en barbette* 62 twenty-four pounders and 3 ten-inch columbiads. To work these effectively requires a force of six hundred and fifty men. This fort cost the United States Government $480,000. The interior of the work contains the necessary officers' quarters, furnaces, &c. A water battery mounting eight or ten heavy guns is situated below the parapets.

FORT BARRANCAS.

This work is third in point of importance of the defences on the Florida coast. It lies north of Pensacola Bay. Formerly an old Spanish fort was built here. It is a bastioned work of heavy masonry, and has an armament of 49 guns. A redoubt in the rear enables it to be re-enforced in time of action. This redoubt is mounted with flanking howitzers of scarp and counter-scarp. Eight 23-pound howitzers guard the flank defences. When the rebels took possession of Barrancas it contained, besides its full armament of guns, the following munitions of war:—256 eight-inch shells, 993 twenty-four pound balls, 539 eighteen pound balls, besides a large amount of powder. The full armament of this fort consists of 41 pieces of ordnance, divided as follows: 11 thirty-two pounders, 3 eight-inch paixhans, 2 eight-inch columbiads, 8 twenty-four pounders, 5 eighteen pounders, 2 twelve pounders, 8 twelve pounder howitzers, and 2 eighteen inch mortars.

Besides the above, there are sand batteries erected at various points, all in position to rake Fort Pickens, and mostly mounting heavy columbiads.

Rural New-Yorker.

NEWS DEPARTMENT.

"FROM prairie, O, plowman! speed boldly away—
There's seed to be sown in God's furrows to-day—
Row landward, lone fisher! stout woodman, come home!
Let smith leave his anvil and weaver his loom,
And hamlet and city ring loud with the cry,
'For God and our country we'll fight till we die!
Here's welcome to wounding, and combat, and scars,
And the glory of death—for the Stripes and the Stars!'"

ROCHESTER, N.Y., DECEMBER 21, 1861.

THE WAR'S PROGRESS.

FACTS, SCENES, INCIDENTS, ETC.

Abstracts of Department Reports.

LACK of space precludes the publication in full of the various Reports issuing from the different Governmental Departments. We give, however, abstracts which cover the more important portions of such as possess peculiar interest in the present condition of affairs:

THE TREASURER'S REPORT.

To provide for immediate exigencies was the first duty of the Secretary, and he performed it by issuing, under authorities conferred by various acts, for payment to public creditors or for advances of cash, $14,010,034.60 in treasury notes, payable in two years, and bearing six per cent. interest, and $12,877,750 in treasury notes, bearing the same rate of interest, but payable sixty days after date.

His next care was to provide for the regular and continuous disbursements of the war, under the acts of the July session, and with this view, he carefully examined the various powers conferred on him, compared the probabilities of the American and European markets for capital; and considered the relative advantages and disadvantages of the several forms of loan authorized.

His reflections led him to the conclusion that the safest, surest, and most beneficial plan would be to engage the banking institutions of the three chief commercial cities of the seaboard to advance the amounts needed for disbursement in the form of loans for three years 7.30 bonds, to be reimbursed, as far as practicable, from the proceeds of similar bonds, subscribed for by the people, through the agencies of the National Loan; using, meanwhile, himself, to a limited extent, in aid of these advances, the power to issue notes of smaller denominations than fifty dollars, payable on demand.

Upon this plan he hoped that the capital of the banking institutions and the capital of the people might be so combined with the credit of the Government, in a proper provision for necessary expenditures, as to give efficiency to administrative action, whether civil or military, and competent support to public credit. The result thus far has fulfilled that hope.

Representatives from the banking institutions of the three cities, responding to his invitation, met him for consultation in New York, and, after full conference, agreed to unite as associates in moneyed support to the Government, and to subscribe at once a loan of fifty millions of dollars, of which five millions were to be paid immediately to the Assistant Treasurers, in coin, and the residue, also in coin, as needed for disbursement. The Secretary, on his part, agreed to issue three years 7.30 bonds or Treasury notes, bearing even date with the subscription, and of equal amount; to cause books of subscription to the National Loan to be immediately opened; to reimburse the advances of the banks, as far as practicable, from this national subscription; and to deliver to them 7.30 bonds or Treasury notes for the amount not thus reimbursed. It was further understood that the Secretary of the Treasury should issue a limited amount of United States notes, payable on demand, in aid of the operations of the Treasury, and that the associated institutions, when the first advance of fifty millions should be expended, would, if practicable, make another, and when that should be exhausted, still another advance to the Government of the same amount, and on similar terms.

The objects of this arrangement were, (1st) to place at the command of the Government the large sums immediately needed for the payment of maturing Treasury notes, and for other disbursements, ordinary and extraordinary; (2d) to secure to the people equal opportunity, with the banks, for participation in the loan; (3d) to avoid competition between the Government and the associated institutions in the disposal of bonds; (4th) to facilitate and secure further advances to the Government by the associates, if required; and (5th) to insure, if possible, the maintenance of payments in specie, or its actual equivalents and representatives.

All these objects were, happily, accomplished. $50,000,000 were immediately advanced by the banks. The Secretary caused books of subscription to be opened throughout the country, and the people subscribed freely to the loan. The amounts thus subscribed were reimbursed to the banks, and the sum reimbursed, though then covering but little more than half the amount, enabled those institutions, when a second loan was required, to make a second advance of $50,000,000. Thus two loans of $50,000,000 each have been negotiated for three years 7.30 bonds at par. The first of these loans was negotiated, and the first issue of bonds bears date, on the 19th of August; the second on the 1st of October, 1861.

On the 16th of November a third loan was negotiated with the associated institutions, under the authority given to the Secretary to borrow a sum not exceeding one hundred millions, in Europe or the United States, at a rate of interest not exceeding seven per cent. As no reasonable prospect appeared of obtaining terms equally advantageous by advertisement, and as it was manifestly for the interest of the Government to negotiate at home rather than incur the expense and hazard of negotiation abroad, the Secretary, under the authority of the seventh section of the act of August 5, 1861, arranged this third loan, also, with the associates, by agreeing to issue to them fifty millions of dollars in six per cent. bonds, at a rate equivalent to par for the bonds bearing seven per cent. interest, authorized by the act of July 17. This negotiation, though less advantageous to the Government, considered under the light of a simple money transaction, than the two prior loans, was in some respects, at least, more so. It was coupled with no arrangement for reimbursement, and entailed no immediate expense on the treasury beyond that of preparing and issuing the bonds. It was coupled, also, with an understanding in the form of an option to the associates, that on or after the first of January a fourth advance of fifty millions should be made on the same terms with the first and second, if practicable, and required by the Secretary.

In addition to the loans thus made, the Secretary has issued United States notes, payable on demand, in denominations of five, ten, and twenty dollars, of which there were in circulation, according to the last returns, on the 30th day of November, 1861, $21,165,220; and there remained in the treasury at the same date, $3,385,105. The amount thus issued, so far as it enters into the circulation of the country, may be regarded as a loan from the people, payable on demand, without interest.

A brief recapitulation will exhibit the general result:

There were paid to creditors, or exchanged for coin at par, at different dates in July and August, 6 per cent. two years notes, to the amount of	$14,010,034 60
There was borrowed, at par, in the same months, upon sixty days six per cent. notes, the sum of	12,877,750 00
There was borrowed, at par, on the 16th of August, upon three years 7 30 bonds, issued for the most part to the subscribers of the National Loan	50,000,000 00
There was borrowed on the 1st of October, upon like securities	50,000,000 00
There was borrowed, at par, for seven per cent. on the 16th of November, upon twenty years six per cent. bonds, reduced to the equivalent of sevens, including interest	45,795,418 48
There have been issued, and were in circulation and on deposit with the Treasurer, on the 30th of November, of United States notes, payable on demand	24,550,325 00
Making an aggregate, realized from loans in various forms, of	$197,242,588 14

* * * * * * *

To provide the large sums needed for the disbursements of the current year, and the large sums which the exigencies of the succeeding year may require, will necessarily engage the most serious attention of Senators and Representatives.

The first great object of reflection and endeavor, in the judgment of the Secretary, should be the reduction of expenditure within the narrowest practicable limits. Retrenchment and reform are among the indispensable duties of the hour. Contracts for supplies to the army and navy, as well as for public work of all descriptions, should be subjected to strict supervision, and the contractors to rigorous responsibility. All unnecessary offices should be abolished, and salaries and pay should be materially reduced. In these ways the burdens of the people, imposed by the war, may be sensibly lightened; and the savings thus effected will be worth more in beneficial effect and influence than the easiest acquisition of equal sums, even without cost or liability to re-payment.

While thus recommending retrenchment and the prevention of abuses, the Secretary feels himself constrained to renew the suggestion heretofore submitted by him, that the property of rebels should be made to pay, in part at least, the cost of rebellion. Property of great value in loyal States is held by proprietors who are actually or virtually engaged in that guilty attempt to break up the Union and overturn its government, which has brought upon our country all the calamities we now endure. That property is justly forfeited to the people, and should be subjected, with due regard for all rights and interests concerned, to sequestration or confiscation, and the proceeds should be applied to the satisfaction of claims arising from the war.

Property of rebels in rebel States should be treated in like manner. Rights to services, under State laws, must, of necessity, form an exception to any rule of confiscation. Persons held by rebels, under such laws, to service as slaves, may, however, be justly liberated from their constraint, and made more valuable in various employments, through voluntary and compensated service, than if confiscated as subjects of property.

THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

The following statement presents the entire estimated strength of the army, both volunteers and regulars:

	VOLUNTEERS.		
States.	3 months.	For the war.	Aggregate.
California	—	4,688	4,688
Connecticut	2,236	12,400	14,636
Delaware	715	2,000	2,715
Illinois	4,941	80,000	84,941
Indiana	4,683	57,332	62,015
Iowa	978	19,000	20,168
Kentucky	—	16,000	16,000
Maine	770	14,239	15,000
Maryland	—	7,000	7,000
Massachusetts	3,435	26,760	30,195
Michigan	781	28,550	29,331
Minnesota	—	4,160	4,160
Missouri	9,356	22,130	31,486
New Hampshire	770	9,600	10,370
New Jersey	3,068	9,363	12,410
New York	10,188	100,200	110,388
Ohio	10,236	81,205	91,441
Pennsylvania	19,192	94,100	113,952
Rhode Island	1,285	5,868	7,153
Vermont	789	8,000	9,186
Virginia	779	12,000	12,779
Wisconsin	792	14,153	14,945
Kansas	—	5,000	5,000
Colorado	—	1,000	1,000
Nebraska	—	2,500	2,500
Nevada	—	1,000	1,000
New Mexico	—	1,000	1,000
District of Columbia	2,823	1,000	3,823
	77,875	640,637	718,512
Estimated strength of the regular army, including the new enlistment under act of Congress of July 29th, 1861	—	20,333	—
Total	—	660,961	—

The several arms of the service are estimated as follows:

	Volunteers.	Regulars.	Aggregate.
Infantry	552,208	11,175	563,383
Cavalry	54,654	4,644	59,298
Artillery	20,380	4,308	24,688
Rifles and Sharp-Shooters	8,395	—	8,395
Engineers	—	107	107
	640,637	20,334	660,971

The appropriations asked for the service of the next fiscal year are computed for a force of 500,000 men. They have been reduced to the lowest possible amount consistent with the public interests, and are based upon a strictly economical administration of the various branches of this Department.

The appropriations to cover deficiencies are rendered necessary by the excess of the force in the field over that upon which the estimates were founded, and by extraordinary expenditures connected with the employment and discharge of the Three Months Contingent.

An item of very heavy expense is the large mounted force which has been organized, equipped and made available since the called session of Congress, and which was not computed for in the estimate. While an increase of cavalry was undoubtedly necessary, it has reached a numerical strength more than adequate to the wants of the service. As it can only be maintained at a great cost, measures will be taken for its gradual reduction.

In organizing our great army, I was effectively aided by the loyal Governors of the different States, and I cheerfully acknowledge the prompt patriotism with which they responded to the call of this Department.

Congress, during its extra session, authorized the army to be increased by the acceptance of a volunteer force of 500,000 men, and made an appropriation of $500,000,000 for its support. A call for the troops was immediately made; but so numerous were the offers that it was found difficult to discriminate in the choice, where the patriotism of the people demanded that there should be no restriction upon enlistments. Every portion of the loyal States desired to swell the army, and every community was anxious that it should be represented in a cause that appealed to the noblest impulses of our people.

So thoroughly aroused was the national heart, that I have no doubt this force would have been swollen to a million, had not the Department felt compelled to restrict it, in the absence of authority from the representatives of the people to increase the limited number. It will be for Congress to decide whether the army shall be further augmented, with a view to a more speedy termination of the war, or whether it shall be confined to the strength already fixed by law. In the latter case, with the object of reducing the volunteer force to 500,000, I propose, with the consent of Congress, to consolidate such of the regiments as may from time to time fall below the regulation standard. The adoption of this measure will decrease the number of officers, and proportionably diminish the expenses of the army.

It is said of Napoleon by Jomini, that, in the campaign of 1815, the great General on the 1st of April had a regular army of 200,000 men. On the 1st of June he had increased this force to 414,000. The proportion, adds Jomini, "had he thought proper to inaugurate a vast system of defense, would have raised it to 700,000 men by the 1st of September." At the commencement of this rebellion, inaugurated by the attack upon Fort Sumter, the entire military force at the disposal of this Government was 16,006 regulars, principally employed in the West to hold in check marauding Indians. In April, 75,000 volunteers were called upon to enlist for three months' service, and responded with such alacrity that 77,875 were immediately obtained. Under the authority of the act of Congress of July 22, 1861, the States were asked to furnish 500,000 volunteers to serve for three years, or during the war; and by the act approved the 29th of the same month, the addition of 25,000 men to the regular army of the United States was authorized. The result is, that we have now an army of upwards of 600,000 men. If we add to this the number of the discharged three months volunteers, the aggregate force furnished to the government since April last exceeds 700,000 men.

The conspiracy against the government extended over an area of 733,144 square miles, possessing a coast line of 3,523 miles, and a shore line of 25,414 miles, with an interior boundary line of 7,031 miles in length. This conspiracy stripped us of arms and munitions, and scattered our navy to the most distant quarters of the globe. The effort to restore the Union, which the government entered upon in April last, was the most gigantic endeavor in the history of civil war. The interval of seven months has been spent in preparation.

The history of this rebellion, in common with all others, for obvious causes, records the first successes in favor of the insurgents. The disaster of Bull Run was but the natural consequence of the premature advance of our brave but undisciplined troops, which the impatience of the country demanded. The betrayal also of our movements by traitors in our midst enabled the rebels to choose and intrench their position, and by a re-enforcement in great strength, at the moment of victory, to snatch it from our grasp. This reverse, however, gave no discouragement to our gallant people; they have crowded into our ranks, and although large numbers have been rejected, a mighty army in invincible array stands eager to precipitate itself upon the fo[illegible] The check that we have received upon the Potoma[illegible] has, therefore, but postponed the campaign for [illegible] few months. The other successes of the rebels though dearly won, were mere affairs with n[illegible] important or permanent advantages. The posse[illegible]sion of Western Virginia and the occupation of Hatteras and Beaufort have nobly redeemed our transient reverses.

At the date of my last report, the States of Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky, and Missouri were threatened with rebellion. In Delaware the good sense and patriotism of the people have triumphed ov[illegible] the unholy schemes of traitors. The people of Kentucky early pronounced themselves, by an unequivocal declaration at the ballot box, in favor of th[illegible] Union; and Maryland, notwithstanding the efforts [illegible] bad men in power in the city of Baltimore, when [illegible] opportunity of a general election was afforded, under the lead of her brave and patriotic Governor, rebuked by an overwhelming majority the traitors who would have led her to destruction. In Missouri a loyal State Government has been established by the people, thousands of whom have rallied to the support of the Federal authority, and, in conjunction with troops from other portions of the country have forced the rebels to retire into the adjoining State. The government established in Virginia by the loyal portion of her population is in successful operation, and I have no doubt will be sustained by the people of the entire State when the thraldom of the rebel forces shall have been removed.

Thus has it been made clearly apparent that in whatever direction the forces of the Union have extended their protection, the repressed loyalty of the people, irresistibly manifesting itself, has aided to restore and maintain the authority of the government; and I doubt not that the army now assembled on the banks of the Potomac, will, under its able leader, soon make such a demonstration as will re-establish its authority throughout all the rebellious States.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

The duties of the navy during the past summer have been three-fold; to guard the insurgent ports and a coast line of nearly three thousand miles; to protect our maritime commerce and cruise in pursuit of piratical vessels sent out by the Confederates; and to take part in combined naval and military expeditions against North and South Carolina, and the ports of the infected districts.

Vessels have been sunk in Ocracoke Inlet, on the North Carolina coast, and others are about to be sunk in the harbors of Charleston and Savannah.

One hundred and fifty-three vessels, of various sizes, have been captured since the institution of the blockade, most of them in attempting to run the blockade.

The naval expeditions were, it seems, planned after receiving the reports of a board of officers, who deliberated on the best points to be attacked and seized. This board consisted of Captains J. F. Dupont and Charles H. Davis, of the navy; Major John G. Barnard, of the army, and Professor Alexander Bache, of the coast survey.

The Secretary reports that flag officer A. H. Foote, of the navy, has organized an efficient naval force in the Mississippi, auxiliary to the army.

Of privateers, the report states that "such of these cruisers as eluded the blockade and capture were soon wrecked, beached, or sunk, with the exception of one, the steamer Sumter, which, by some fatality, was permitted to pass the Brooklyn, then blockading one of the passes of the Mississippi, and after a brief and feeble chase by the latter, was allowed to proceed on her piratical voyage. An investigation of this whole occurrence has been ordered by the Department."

The Secretary fully sustains the act of Captain Wilkes in capturing Mason and Slidell. He says admirably:

"The prompt and decisive action of Capt. Wilkes on this occasion merited and received the emphatic approval of the Department, and if a too generous forbearance was exhibited by him in not capturing the vessel which had these rebel emissaries on board, it may, in view of the special circumstances, and of its patriotic motives, be excused; but it must by no means be permitted to constitute a precedent hereafter for the treatment of any case of similar infraction of neutral obligations by foreign vessels engaged in commerce or the carrying trade."

There were, on the 4th of March last, in commission and at the service of the Secretary of the Navy, only 42 vessels, carrying 555 guns, and 7,600 men. There are to-day in commission 264 vessels, carrying 2,557 guns, and over 22,000 men! This is an immense work to do in a little more than eight months. Besides this, there will be ready very shortly, fifty-two new steamers, "peculiarly adapted to coast guard duty;" three of which are iron-clad.

The Secretary advises the creation of more grades in the naval service, as likely to add to the efficiency of the work, by making the rewards more frequent. Also, he recommends a rule that officers be retired with a sufficient allowance, after forty five years' service. Twenty five acting lieutenants, four hundred and thirty-three acting masters, and two hundred and nine master's mates, have been appointed, in order to have officers enough for the so largely increased navy. There have also been acting engineers and surveyors appointed.

The Secretary asks Congress to foster the Naval School to such a degree that at least double the usual number of cadets may be instructed.

Of the slavery question the Secretary says nothing, but the following, "on the employment of fugitives," will show that he proposes to protect loyal men, and arrest insurgents, without asking if they be black or white. He says:

"In the coastwise and blockading duties of the navy it has been not unfrequent that fugitives from insurrectionary places have sought our ships for refuge and protection, and our naval commanders have applied to me for instruction as to the proper disposition which should be made of such refugees. My answer has been that, if insurgents, they should be handed over to the custody of the Government; but if, on the contrary, they were free from any voluntary participation in the rebellion and sought the shelter and protection of our flag, then they should be cared for and employed in some useful manner, and might be enlisted to serve on our public vessels, or in our navy yards, receiving wages for their labor. If such employment could not be furnished to all by the navy, they might be referred to the army, and if no employment could be found for them in the public service, they should be allowed to proceed freely and peaceably, without restraint, to seek a livelihood in any loyal portion of the country. This I have considered to be the whole required duty, in the premises of our naval officers."

The naval estimates for the year ending June 30, 1863, amount to $44,625,665; and besides this, the Secretary reports a deficit of 16,630,000, needed for current expenses to pay for vessels purchased, and for necessary alterations incurred in fitting them for naval purposes, for the purchase of additional vessels, and for the construction and completion of twenty iron-clad vessels.

Department of Missouri.

The following general order was issued on the 13th inst.:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT MO.,
ST. LOUIS, December 12.

The suffering families driven from South Western Missouri, which have already arrived here, have been supplied by voluntary contributions by Unionists. Others are on their way and will arrive in a few days. These must be supplied by charity from men known to be hostile to the Union. The list will be prepared of them. All persons of this class who do not voluntarily furnish their guests, a contribution will be levied on them of $10,000 in clothing, provisions and Quartermaster's stores or money in lieu thereof. This levy will be made upon the following class of persons in proportion to the guilt of each individual:

1st. Those in arms with the enemy, who have property in this city.

2d. Those who have furnished pecuniary or other aid to the enemy, or persons in the enemy's service.

3d. Those who have verbally, in writing, or by publication, given encouragement to the insurgents, or rebels.

Brigadier General Curtis, Brigadier General Farrar, Provost Marshal, and Charles Borg, Assessor of St. Louis County, will constitute the Board of Assessors for levying the aforementioned contributions. As soon as any part of this contribution has been assessed, the Provost Marshal will notify the parties assessed, their agents or representatives, stating the amount of provisions, clothing, quarters and money value thereof required of each, and if not provided within the time specified in such notice, he will issue an execution, and sufficient property will be sold at public auction to satisfy the assessments, with costs, as there will be a penalty of 25 per cent. additional. If any person on whom assessment shall be made shall file with the Provost Marshal General affidavit that he is a loyalist and true to the allegiance to the United States, he will be allowed one week to furnish evidence to the Board to vindicate his character, and if at the end of that time he shall not be able to fully satisfy the Board of his loyalty, assessment shall be increased 10 per cent., and levy immediately made. Supplies so collected will be expended for the object designated, under the direction of the Provost Marshal General, and by the State Sanitary Commissioner, where money will be received instead of supplies. It will be expended for them as required. Any money not so expended will be turned over to the Sanitary Commissioner for the benefit of sick soldiers, and any one who shall resist, or attempt to resist, the execution of these orders, will be immediately arrested and put in prison, and tried by a Military Commissioner.

Major General HALLECK.

An order is also issued to suppress entirely and prevent any aid, assistance, or communication with any person or persons directly or indirectly disloyal or in arms against the Federal Government. The commerce of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers has been placed under military control and surveillance, and no boat will be permitted to take freight or passage, or be allowed a clearance, except those authorized and commissioned by proper military authorities. All owners, officers, and employes of boats will be required to take a strong oath of allegiance, and any owners or officers committing any act contrary to the above expressed object of this order will cause immediate forfeiture of the boat and cargo to the Federal Government, and such owners or officers will be subject to all penalties prescribed by the articles of war for giving aid to the enemy.

The notorious marauder, Captain Sweeney, and his band of robbers, who have for some time past kept Glasgow, Missouri, and vicinity in terror, were captured at Rogers' Mill, by a detachment of cavalry under Captain Morrill. Sweeney's pickets were surprised and captured, and his rebel band, 36 in number, taken without firing a gun.

The scouting expedition of parts of Merrill's horse and two companies of regular cavalry, returned to Sedalia on the 12th, bringing in as prisoners 4 captains, 2 lieutenants, and about 40 men. They also captured one mortar, and a large number of horses and wagons, and went as far as Waverly. They report 2,000 rebels now at Lexington. Shelby's men were seen and pursued several times.

The St. Louis *Democrat* learns from a gentleman from Lexington, that General Rains and Stein, with 6,000 rebels, were in possession of the town on Friday, and another large body in the vicinity. General Prentice is said to be on the north side of the river. He threw a few shells among them, and destroyed one of the two ferry boats in their hands. This informant says that he had heard heavy firing in the direction of Lexington, indicating that an engagement was progressing, also, that Gen. Davis' brigade left Otterville on Friday, for Lexington.

The Unionists from Lafayette County report that 700 rebel recruits left Lexington on the 10th, to join Price's army.

A band of musicians, 16 in number, from the rebel army, were captured at Dunksburg, on Monday week. The son and son-in-law of Col. Magoffin, have also been taken. They were leaders of the foray on our teams near Georgetown.

Late news from Gen. Price place him still at Osceola, with from 10,000 to 16,000 men, intending in a few days to move northward. He has 63 cannon and 2,500 new tents, lately received from the South. His men are all well clothed and well armed.

Persons arriving in St. Louis from the seceded States are hereafter ordered to report themselves at the office of the Provost Marshal, to register their names and subscribe to the oath of allegiance. This is to relieve persons who come here in good faith seeking protection of the Government from the suspicion which naturally attaches to all parties from the South, and to prevent their arrest and molestation.

Several citizens from Arkansas reached Rolla, Mo., during the past week, and enlisted in an Arkansas company under Captain Ware, late member of the Legislature of that State. These men say there was a Union society in Izard, Fulton, Independence, and Learey counties, numbering 2,600 men, which could have made an organized stand in two weeks more time, but it was betrayed by recreant members, and broken up and scattered. Many of these Unionists have been arrested and taken to Little Rock. Some have been hung, and large numbers are now in the woods, trying to effect their escape from the State.

Department of the Ohio.

The *Enquirer's* Louisville correspondent, under date of December 14, says Gen. Johnson, with 15,000 troops, is on the north bank of Green River, and Gen. Rosseau, several miles distant, is preparing to join him. Another brigade, under Gen. McCook, is also moving to concentrate at Mumfordsville. Gen. Buskiner, with 25,000 men, was covering all the hills two miles back from Green River, and was proposing to prevent our troops from crossing the river. Gen. Thomas' Division, on the left wing, is bearing down from the east to get in Buskiner's rear. Gen. Mitchell's Division, of the right wing, moves this morning for Green Run. The rebels are actively on the move, and an engagement is inevitable. Gen. Buell is in constant telegraphic communication with our advancing columns, and is employing all the rolling stock of the Nashville Road in forwarding supplies. All the brigades are prepared, and trains are running through to Mumfordsville. Six new regiments passed through Cincinnati last week for Kentucky.

The Cincinnati *Commercial* has a dispatch which says the Paymaster from London reports that Gen. Crittenden is at Cumberland Gap with 1,500 men and a large force in the vicinity. The *Commercial* also learns that Nashville, Tenn., was in a high state of excitement on the 6th and the following day, by an attempt being made to draft citizens into the rebel army. The indignation of the people was intense. A mob broke out in the Fifth Ward, and four policemen, who attempted to quell the disturbance, were shot dead. The mob rushed to the Capitol to attack Gov. Harris, who fled to Memphis.

On Saturday, the 7th, 2,600 men from Louisiana passed through Nashville for Bowling Green, carrying black flags embellished with skulls and cross-bones. They were mostly sixty days' men, and were armed entirely with shot-guns. The people of Nashville were constantly expecting intelligence of a battle at Bowling Green. The rebel force at that point is estimated by the papers and well-informed people at 25,000 men. Re-enforcements were constantly going forward. The hospitals at Nashville were filled with sick. The number was estimated at 800 to 1,000 men. The inmates complain of a lack of attention, and were suffering from a lack of food. The prevailing diseases were small pox and pneumonia. The troops from Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi suffered most. All the Texas Rangers were on the sick list, and one in a most critical condition. The deaths were so frequent that they supplied the draymen of the city with their principal business. On Saturday a train of six cars, filled with sick, came in from Bowling Green.

The Louisville *Journal* of the 12th says that all Indiana regiments, which have a maximum number of men, have been ordered into Kentucky. This order will throw 9,000 to 10,000 men into Kentucky during this and the coming week.

Gen. Rosecrans arrived at Cincinnati on the 13th instant.

The Postmaster at Somerset writes under date of the 13th that both armies are on the defensive and fortifying.

A gentleman in the confidence of Gen. Schoeff writes that Gen. Zollicoffer is fortifying at Licking Creek, five miles west of Somerset.

A party of rebels in Bagdad, Ky., have been endeavoring to make Unionists take the oath of allegiance to the Confederate States, and Col. Whittaker, on learning it, sent a squad of soldiers to arrest them. The rebels fired upon Col. Whittaker's men, but the odds were too great, and Col. Whittaker dispatched to Capt. Lee at Louisville for assistance, to arrive this morning, immediately proceeding with troops to Jacksonville, where a skirmish last night took place.

A courier from Jacksonville, Ky., on the 14th, says when Capt. Lee arrived with re-enforcements for Col. Whittaker he found the house where the Secessionists were endeavoring to make Union men subscribe to the oath of allegiance entirely deserted. Capt. Lee then dispatched a squad of soldiers to several secession residences, who found they had all been vacated, with evidences of a hasty retreat. Three Secessionists are reported to have been wounded at the skirmish yesterday at Jacksonville. Col. Whittaker ordered the building from where the shots were fired upon his men to be set on fire and destroyed, but Capt. Lee, at the request of the Union men, who feared retaliation after the withdrawal of the Federal troops, got the order revoked.

Johnson, the rebel provisional Governor of Kentucky, in his message to the Legislature, says he will gladly resign his position when Governor Magoffin shall escape from his virtual imprisonment at Frankfort.

Department of Western Virginia.

A SPECIAL dispatch from Cheat Mountain to the Cincinnati *Commercial* says, on the 13th inst., one of the hardest and best fought battles of the war was fought at Alleghany Camp, Pocahontas county, Va., between Gen. R. H. Milroy, commanding the Union troops, and Gen. Johnson of Georgia, commanding the rebels, numbering 2,000. The fight lasted from daylight till 3 P. M. The Union loss was about 30, and the rebel loss over 200, including a Major and many other officers, and 30 prisoners. Gen. Johnson was shot in the mouth, but not fatally. The 12th Georgia regiment suffered the most.

Gen. Milroy's force numbered 1,800 men from the 9th and 13th Indiana, and the 25th and 32d Ohio and the 2d Virginia. The 9th Indiana regiment fought bravely to the last. After driving the enemy into their barracks no less than than five times, our forces retired in good order. The rebels set fire to their camp and retreated to Staunton. Gen. Milroy has driven the last rebel army out of Western Virginia.

The telegraph this (Tuesday) morning, gives us the following additional particulars:

The Union troops came in sight of the enemy drawn up in line of battle in front of their entrenchments, charged upon them and drove them back. A hot fire was kept up during the afternoon on both sides, and several brilliant charges were made by our men. Gen. Milroy withdrew his forces at nightfall, intending to renew the attack in the morning. During the night, however, the rebels silently left their camp, burning everything they could not carry with them. Our loss is 20 killed and 30 wounded, while the enemy's loss is 160, including a field officer. By this action the front of Gen. Reynolds is cleared of the enemy, there being no organized rebel force within 40 miles of our advanced posts.

A detachment sent out from Phillippi on Saturday, returned last night with 10 rebel guerillas, including the notorious Jake Kern.

Department of the East.

A LETTER from a citizen in the western part of North Carolina, to a friend in Washington, has passed the rebel lines, and was to-night placed in the hands of Gen. McClellan. It brings the clearest confirmation yet received that there is a large and determined organization of Unionists in that State. They are putting themselves in communication with the Unionists of East Tennessee, and await only the dawn of hope for a general uprising. They expect a re-enforcement of Brownlow by the National forces, and will accept that movement as the signal for their own action.

The first execution in the army of the Potomac since the commencement of the rebellion, occurred on the 13th, at which time W. H. Johnston, private in the Lincoln cavalry, was shot. According to report, his offense was desertion; supposing himself to be in the presence of a party of the enemy, he expressed joy that he had made his escape. The officer then in command had a private conversation with him, when he freely and anxiously gave such information as would have been of great importance to the rebels. When his revelations had been concluded he was arrested, and much to his surprise discovered his mistake, and was brought back to his own camp a prisoner.

Capt. Dupont, in his communication to the Navy Department, dated Dec. 4th, says the apprehension of losing possession of the bay of St. Helena, so exceedingly valuable for its proximity to Charleston, and for the command it secures of large rivers supplying interior communication with South Carolina, induced him to dispatch a second expedition there, under Commander Drayton, with orders to hold the island until Gen. Sherman is prepared to secure military occupation of it, and transfer the post to his troops. A reconnoissance to ascertain the position and force of the enemy's battery there,—information which the commanding general expressed his desire to obtain before landing troops on Tybee Island,—was performed by Commander Rogers, of Warsaw Inlet. In the necessary occupation of St. Helena Sound and Tybee roads, and in examination of Warsaw Inlet, a large number of the vessels of the squadron are engaged, which will be released and employed in blockading only as soon as Otter and Tybee islands are held by the army. Warsaw Inlet and Sound constitute the second entrance to the Savannah river, and twenty-one feet can be carried over the bar at high water. This passage is at a little distance from Tybee entrance.

Letters received at the Navy Yard, state that on the 6th inst. Commander Rogers left Tybee Roads before daylight, with the steamers Ottawa, Seneca and Pembina, and crossed the bar of Warsaw Sound at half tide. The United States forces approached the fort on Warsaw Island within a mile, and sent Lieut. Barnes with a flag of truce, who found it entirely deserted. The fort consisted of one inclosed octagon work with platforms for eight guns on the water faces. The guns had been removed and platforms cut to pieces, and a magazine blown up. Commander Rogers states that everything had the appearance of being recently deserted.

The letter also states that from the mouth of the Wilmington river they observed a battery bearing upon them northwest by west, half west, distant three miles. It is on the river and about three miles distant, just above a house which is one of the Coast Survey's points for trying triangulation, and is about ten miles from Savannah. They counted five guns, apparently of large calibre, on the face of the battery toward them. They could only see one gun on the other face, but there may have been more. They were near enough to see the men on the ramparts, and to see the glistening of their bayonets.

Commodore Rogers states that a battery on Little Tybee Island would be of no use whatever, although there may have been a signal man placed thereon. The southern part of it is a commanding point for observation. The highest point reached by Commodore Rogers was about eight miles from Warsaw, being about ten miles from Savannah, and three or four miles from Thunderbolt on one side and Montgomery on the other.

Gen. Stevens, with 7,000 men, had occupied Beaufort. Gen. Sherman had appointed Col. Noble, of the 79th regiment, and Col. Sullivan, to superintend the picking and securing of the cotton at Hilton Head and the adjacent islands. The health of the troops was good. No fighting had occurred.

Letters from Key West of the 6th inst., give Pensacola dates of the 26th ult. It appears that rebel steamers have been plying between the navy yard and town, constantly carrying guns, munitions, &c. Col. Brown notified Bragg that he should fire on them, to which Bragg replied, "Fire away!"

On the morning of the 22d two steamers again appeared. Col. Brown disabled one. A general cannonading then took place between Pickens and Fort Barrancas, the Niagara and Richmond opening on McRae and several water batteries. The engagement lasted nearly two whole days. McRae was silenced, and also the water batteries in reach of the Richmond's guns. No person was injured aboard the Niagara. James Cook was killed on the Richmond. Both vessels were slightly damaged in their upper works. Pickens had not even a sand bag displaced by the Barrancas' fire. On the 24th, while removing fuse from a shell, it exploded, killing five men and wounding many others. Col. Brown says he has Barrancas completely at his mercy, and is awaiting re-enforcements to sally forth, when he shall take them.

Another letter states that one of Wilson's Zouaves was killed and one wounded, on the 22d. About two hundred guns were fired on the second day. At 3 P. M. on the 23d, Warrington was set on fire by our guns, and that place and the navy yard destroyed. The steamer Times was disabled by the first shot. The rebel fire slackened on the second day.

Two companies of Wilson's Zouaves have charge of the batteries near the fort, two companies assist in the fort, and the remainder of the regiment have to work on the trenches, and repel a midnight attack. The heaviest rebel guns are near the light-house, and the best mortars on both sides of the hospitals. The range of our artillery is splendid.

A note dated the 24th, states that Colonel Brown prohibited firing unless the rebels first opened it, the day being Sabbath. One of our guns bursted yesterday. The rebels have evidently suffered much.

Affairs in Washington.

OUR Government has replied to the invitation of England, France and Spain, to take part in the expedition against Mexico, declining to have anything to do with it.

The President has declined to communicate to Congress any communications from the Governments of England, France or Spain addressed to him in regard to the armed intervention proposed by them in the affairs of Mexico. He deems it inexpedient to do so at present.

The Quartermaster's Department has asked Congress for an appropriation of $1,000,000, in addition to $1,000,000 already granted, owing to the expenses incurred for the armed flotilla on the Western waters.

The President occupied a seat by the side of Vice-President Hamlin on the 11th inst., upon the delivering of the eulogies on the death of Senator Baker. Visits of the President to either House of Congress are of rare occurrence. This is the first instance of the kind during the past quarter of a century.

The regular troops surrendered to the rebels in New Mexico by Major Lynde, and released on parole, consisting of one company of the 3d cavalry and five companies of the 7th infantry, are to be stationed on the Northern frontier, and will probably garrison the posts of Detroit, Fort Niagara, Fort Ontario, Sackett's Harbor and Rouse's Point. The duties required of them are such as they can perform without violating their paroles. The posts mentioned have not been occupied by troops for several years. Col. C. A. Waite, of the 1st infantry, is assigned to the command of a district embracing the above named posts.

Orders have been received at the Adjutant-General's office from the Secretary of War, that no more regiments, batteries or independent companies will be raised by the Governors of States, except by special requisition of the War Department. Those now forming in the different States, will be completed under the direction of the Governors thereof, unless it be deemed more advantageous to the service to assign men already raised to regiments, batteries or independent companies now in the field, in order to fill up their organizations to the maximum standard prescribed by law.

Recruiting service in various States for volunteer forces already in service and for those that may hereafter be received, is placed under charge of general superintendents, respectively, with general depots for collection and instruction of recruits. Superintendents detailed will take charge of the recruiting service in the various States to which they are assigned, on the 1st day of January, 1862. They will take post at the general depots, which will be under their immediate command. Upon the requisition of Superintendents, a suitable number of volunteer officers, non-commissioned officers and privates will be detailed for duty in the staff department and as drill masters at the respective depots. A disbursing officer of funds for collecting, drilling and organizing volunteers, will be assigned to each department, who will be under the direction of a Superintendent. Volunteer officers now on recruiting service, will be relieved on the 1st of January next, and sent to join their regiments, unless directed to report to the Superintendent of their respective States. After that time, volunteers will be mustered for pay upon the same form of rolls as those used for the regular army. Commanding officers of volunteer regiments numbering less than the maximum organization fixed by law, will immediately report, to the Adjutant-General's office at Washington, the present state of their commands, in order that the Governors of the several States may be called upon to fill up their respective regiments to the standard prescribed.

A dispatch to the N. Y. *Tribune* says Senator Sumner read to Secretary Cameron a warm and indignant letter from Gov. Andrew, remonstrating against the employment of Massachusetts men in the disgraceful business of slave catching, as had been done on the upper Potomac. Secretary Cameron promptly referred the letter to Gen. Stone, with the emphatic request that he would see to it that the men of color who entered the camps under his command, were treated literally in the spirit of the orders concerning fugitives from slavery, which the Secretary of War had already given to the Commanding Generals.

Letters from Europe say that Mr. Russell states that the Administration is becoming disposed to accept some foreign mediation, with a view to compromise and separation. It is difficult to conceive how Mr. Russell should have been deceived in the adoption of such an idea. Neither the Administration nor any one connected with it, would ever accept mediators from any quarter, or peace on any basis but complete surrender to the authority of the United States.

The question of the exchange of prisoners seems to be fairly settled. The New York Executive Committee have had several lengthy and interesting interviews with the President, Gen. McClellan, and Senators and members of the House, all of whom favor it. The committee's interview with General McClellan was especially gratifying. He spoke of the subject briefly, but warmly, and from his conversation has evidently given the subject much study, as he seemed to grasp its salient points with great clearness. The Military Committee of both Houses have reported favorably on the subject. The joint resolution which has passed the House, requesting the President to make an exchange, will pass the Senate. In point of fact, an exchange has been practically going on, thirty prisoners having been sent from Washington on the 10th inst. to Fortress Monroe, while large numbers have been likewise released from Fort Warren.

Senator Sumner intends pressing to a confirmation the measures which he introduced ten years ago, for a classification and modification of the statutes of the United States, and which has now been recommended by the President. Congress has, since the organization of the Government, enacted more than 5,000 acts and joint resolutions, which fill more than 5,000 closely printed pages, and are scattered through many volumes. A bill for the purpose mentioned has been introduced in the House.

It is probable that Senator Polk, of Missouri, will be expelled from the Senate. The evidence of his complicity with the rebels is reported to be conclusive, and the Senate is determined to purge itself of all traitorous members.

The Navy Department wants proposals for furnishing, fitting and securing to vessels of war, iron plates of three inches in thickness and fifteen and a half feet in length, to have planed edges and countersunk holes, to be bent to the shape of the vessel from stem to stern, and fastened to the timbers with conical-headed bolts of half an inch in diameter. It is understood that the Department designs to thus clothe vessels of war with the least possible delay.

The Navy Department has received dispatches from Capt. Palmer, commanding the steamer Iroquois, in which he minutely relates his movements in order to capture the privateer Sumter. The Government at Martinique, he says, refused to give the Sumter coal, but allowed her to come to St. Pierre, where she obtained a supply from English merchants. The Sumter had been received with courtesy at the seat of government, and Capt. Palmer discovered, to use his own language, that this farce of non-recognition of the Confederate flag by France and England, is played out. He had a correspondence with the Governor, the result of which was, he was referred to a paragraph of Wheaton's International Law, to the effect that one belligerent could not depart from port until twenty-four hours after another had left. The Sumter was at that time in port, and the Iroquois one marine league from shore. A majority of the citizens of Port Royal were in favor of the Sumter, and therefore were anxious for her escape. Being French, they sympathized with Louisiana, to which State they thought the Sumter belonged. Throughout the proceedings Capt. Palmer was apprehensive that the Sumter would escape, and wished she was anywhere else but under French protection, as the authorities were throwing every obstacle in his way. The Government, however, repudiated any unfriendliness in reply to Capt. Palmer's complaint. Owing to the distance from the shore which the Iroquois was obliged to occupy, from the fact that the bay is fifteen miles wide, and for the reasons above stated, the Sumter succeeded in escaping. The Iroquois followed her, but found she was not visible over the background of the sky.

The following is an abridged copy of the report of Capt. Wilkes to the Navy Department, assigning his reasons for the arrest of Messrs. Mason and Slidell:

UNITED STATES STEAMER SAN JACINTO,
At Sea, November 16, 1861.

The Government of Great Britain, France and Spain having issued proclamations that the Confederate States were viewed, considered and treated as belligerents, I felt no hesitation in boarding and searching all vessels of whatever nation I fell in with, and have done so.

The question arose in my mind whether I had the right to capture the persons of the Commissioners,—whether they were amenable to capture. There was no doubt I had the right to capture vessels with written dispatches. They are expressly referred to in all authorities, subjecting the vessel to seizure and confiscation, if the captain of the vessel had a knowledge of their being on board. But these gentlemen were not dispatches in the literal sense, and no where could I find a case in point. They had been presented to the Captain-General of Cuba by Her British Majesty's Consul-General, but the Captain-General told me he had not received them in that capacity, but as distinguished gentlemen and strangers. I then considered them as the embodiment of dispatches, and it therefore became my duty to arrest their progress, and capture them if they had no passports or papers from the Federal Government, as provided for under the law of nations,—namely, that foreign ministers of a belligerent on board of neutral ships, are required to possess papers from the other belligerent to permit them to pass free.

There can be no doubt he knew they were carrying highly important dispatches, and were endowed with instructions inimical to the United States. Th[illegible] rendered his vessel a good prize, and I determined to keep possession of her, as I mentioned in my report, and send her to Key West for adjudication.

As respects the steamer in which they embarked, the agent of the vessel, who is the son of the British Consul at Havana, was well aware of the character of these persons. They went in the steamer with the knowledge and consent of the Captain, who endeavored afterwards to conceal them, by refusing to exhibit the passenger list and the papers of the vessel. I forbore to seize her, however, in consequence of my being so reduced in officers and crew, and the derangement it would cause innocent persons, there being a large number of passengers, who would be put to great loss and inconvenience, as well as disappointment, from the interruption it would cause them in not being able to go in the steamer from St. Thomas for Europe.

I therefore concluded to sacrifice the interests of my officers and crew in the prize, and suffer the steamer to proceed, after the necessary detention to effect the transfer of these Commissioners, considering I had obtained the important end I had in view.

CHARLES WILKES.

The latest news from England has occasioned no marked excitement among public men. The indignation of the British press having been anticipated, we observe no expressions of surprise at the pending disputes between the United States and England. Heretofore the angry public voice has subsided to await diplomatic formalities; so will it be again. The particular claims of the British Government, growing out of the removal of Slidell and Mason from the Trent, have yet to be presented, and when brought forward will become a matter for discussion between the two powers. It is not unreasonable to assume that our Government will have equal advantage and skill in the discussion, when the British Government shall have made formal demand for the restoration of the rebel ministers. When the time arrives for such response, we will show that, although we are engaged with insurgents, there is still integrity in the Government to furnish such a reply as will not be at variance with our heretofore amply sustained character of national independence. The diplomatic corps seem to be more concerned in the important question at issue, than our own civil functionaries. Questions are generally asked what will be the result of the controversy, rather than the expression of individual opinion upon the subject. As for the Administration, there is reason to believe that neither the President, nor any one of the Cabinet, will be diverted in the least degree from their present purpose of conducting the war.

Franklin Chase, the United States Consul at Tampico, informs the Secretary of State that the city is thronged with loyal United States fugitives from Texas, in great distress, some of whom he has relieved as far as private means would allow. As Congress makes no provision for the relief of destitute citizens in foreign countries, unless seamen, the cases of fugitives mentioned by Mr. Chase appeal to the sympathies of the charitable at home.

FOREIGN NEWS.

England and France on the Arrest of Mason and Slidell.

THE Royal Mail Steamship Europa, from Liverpool on the 30th ult., arrived at Halifax on the 15th inst. News of the stoppage of the British steamer Trent, with the rebel emissaries Mason and Slidell, and their removal to the U. S. vessel San Jacinto, had been received, causing intense excitement. We give the views of the English and French press on the subject:

The *Observer* (Ministerial journal) states that a special messenger by the Europa conveys the demand of the British Government to Lord Lyons, insisting upon an apology and a restoration to the protection of the British flag of the Rebel Commissioners. The *Observer* adds:—"There was no reason why Mason and Slidell should not be restored to the quarter-deck of a British man-of-war before New York, Baltimore or Washington. Nearly all the London weekly papers treat the question of the San Jacinto in the same energetic spirit as the daily papers."

The *Times* remarks:—"The position of the Federal